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Tory MP turns on Willetts over his role in Hamilton cash for questions affair

Minister accused of lying

Row over crucial memo

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

DAVID Willetts, the minister at the centre of a Commons inquiry into the handling of the "cash for questions" scandal, was accused last night by a fellow Tory of having lied either to his own whips or to the committee investigating a leaked memo into the affair.

Quentin Davies, Conservative MP for Stamford, accused the Paymaster General of either deceiving his colleagues at the time he wrote a crucial memo in 1994 about a conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith about the affair or trying to deceive the inquiry last night.



David Willetts being questioned by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. He denied he had tried to manipulate a previous inquiry

Geoffrey could either claim *sub judice* and shelve the inquiry or investigate it as soon as possible "exploiting the Tory majority" on the committee.

But last night before the new inquiry, Mr Willetts, directly contradicting the words of his memo, said Sir Geoffrey had not sought advice on how to deal with the affair; that he had not offered any advice; and that there had been no attempt by him to manipulate the committee.

Mr Davies said there were at least three essential aspects of Mr Willetts's stories which would not simply be reconciled. One concerned the phrase in the original

memo which suggested that Sir Geoffrey would try to "exploit the good Tory majority" on the Members' Interests Committee. The second was the phrase "he wants our advice", which suggested that Sir Geoffrey was seeking guidance from the whips. The third was that he had not sought to influence the inquiry into Hamilton.

He expressed complete surprise and disapproval when Mr Campbell-Savours told him he had proof that Mr Mitchell had been involved in discussions about his proceedings in the committee with the chief whip.

The Willetts memo

Geoffrey Johnson Smith said No 10 had got in a muddle about Committee on Members' Interests. They claimed it had cleared Neil Hamilton but actually this was only on a complaint about remarks of his, not on the new allegations. He is expecting to receive a formal complaint about Hamilton receiving money etc. He could:

- (i) argue now sub judice and get committee to set it aside, or
- (ii) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present.

We were inclined to go for (i) but he wants our advice.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith

'I neither sought advice nor did I expect anyone to give me any advice.'

David Willetts

'As for the words, "He wants our advice," he didn't seek my advice, I didn't offer any advice and I don't believe Sir Geoffrey expected to receive any advice. They mean "He is in want of advice. He needed advice".'

Quentin Davies

'Either you were deceiving your colleagues in the initial memorandum or you are trying to deceive the committee now in your subsequent memorandum. Which of these two should we believe? Both of them cannot be true.'

The Guardian

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Major defiant on 48-hour week

Michael White Political Editor

JOHAN MAJOR last night raised the stakes in his running battle over the 48-hour working week when he warned his European partners that the Cabinet will not back down on the issue - because it shows how Britain is getting economic policy right and they have got it wrong.



John Major's stance on the 48-hour week.

On the eve of today's expected judgment from the European Court of Justice, rejecting London's appeal against enforcement of the working time directive, Mr Major said he will veto the outcome of the Maastricht review conference next summer - if he is still in office - unless the law is changed to prevent similar "backdoor" social legislation.

Major's Britain

It was now poised to become "one of the leading global trading nations of the 21st century", said Mr Major in terms that drew scornful charges of "blatant electioneering" from Labour and the Liberal Democrats and an equally stubborn response from Brussels.

Curiosity killed the eavesdropper but only for a couple of hours

David Barrowford in Johannesburg and Kamal Ahmed

TO PARAPHRASE Monty Python, Talayr George Sogwe was not dead but simply resting.

recounted the story of his life and sang his praises as Mr Sogwe, aged 65, listened from the comfort of the coffin.

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The Willetts inquiry



David Lindsay Willetts
Age: 40.
Educated: King Edward School Birmingham, Christ Church, Oxford. First-class honours PPE.
Career: Entered Treasury at 22, becoming a principal in monetary division at 26. Moved to Downing Street Policy Unit at 28.
Political career: Director of Centre for Policy Studies 1987-92. Elected 1992 for Havant.
Parliamentary private secretary to Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, 1993-94. Assistant whip 1994-96. Paymaster General since July.

'As Sir Geoffrey made clear, I did not think that he was saying anything to me that he would not have said to any other colleague. I did not seek him out. He did not seek me out. We bumped into each other. Everyone was talking about the Hamilton case'



Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith
Age: 72.
Educated: Charterhouse, Lincoln College, Oxford.
Career: Information Officer, British Consul General, San Francisco. TV interviewer 1954-59.
Political career: MP, except for one year, since 1959.
Parliamentary under-secretary to armed forces and civil service in Heath government, early 1970s. Chairman of House of Commons Members' Interests Committee, 1980-95.
Knighted 1982. Vice-chairman of 1922 Committee.

'I did not assume he was a whip. I had no impression he was speaking to me as a whip. I am pretty sure we had a conversation. I could go no further than that. I did not recall having a conversation knowing that he was addressing me as a whip'

Tory grandee disowns whip's memo

House was in ferment over Hamilton, MPs told

Owen Bowcott and Alan Travis

THE ISSUE of the memorandum written by David Willetts had been referred to the Commons standards and privileges committee by the House on October 16, the chairman, Tony Newton, explained. The question was whether there had been improper pressure brought to bear by the Government on the former Committee of Members' Interests in 1994, when Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith was chairing it. Mr Newton began by asking about the circumstances of the conversation between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Willetts. "How did it come about and what was said in the course of it?" he asked. After more than two years, Sir Geoffrey replied, his recollection was not as clear as it might be. It had been a busy day. "I did have a number of conversations with various people who were concerned about the seriousness of the allegations." The fact that legal action had been initiated by Neil Hamilton presented his committee with a problem. But he had not contacted the Government about such difficulties. "It has never been my custom to seek advice on a matter concerning my chairmanship of that committee. I neither sought advice nor did I expect anyone to give me any advice." Any such action would have been improper. The Labour MP Ann Taylor asked Sir Geoffrey if he had

had discussions with any other government whips about the Hamilton affair. "No. Certainly not," Sir Geoffrey replied. Asked how he knew that Mr Hamilton was going to issue a writ on that day (October 20, 1994), before it had formally been announced, Sir Geoffrey said: "The issue of the writ was in the air." The committee had previously proceeded with inquiries against other MPs, such as John Browne, where part of the hearing was in private in order not to prejudice other actions, Mr Taylor said. Could not a similar course have been taken with Mr Hamilton? In Mr Browne's case, Sir Geoffrey said, there had never been a writ issued. It was different from Mr Hamilton's in that respect. On the conversation with Mr Willetts, he said he could not recall the circumstances with any degree of accuracy. "I don't think I started any conversation. He may have heard me talking to someone else. I think it's unlikely I would have walked up to anyone and started a conversation. It may have been Mr Willetts' curiosity." Mrs Taylor asked if it was correct that he had described No 10 as "getting itself into a muddle" on the issue. "Yes, that could be the case," he replied. Asked about the wording of the Willetts memorandum, Sir Geoffrey denied it was a reflection of what he had said. He would never have referred to "exploiting a Tory majority." Such a phrase would not "exist in my vocabulary."

Mr Willetts should be asked why he had worded his memorandum in the way he did. He may have thought I was in need of advice but I certainly didn't need it." Iain Duncan-Smith asked if the memorandum was accurate. Sir Geoffrey said it was inaccurate, but then added: "It's not inaccurate in the sense that it's perfectly true that we had the opportunity to go ahead or disregard the writ." Mr Willetts had made the point correctly. The memorandum accurately reflected the division in his own mind about how the committee should proceed. There were dangers in going ahead straight away because the whole matter could shortly become *sub judice*. Mr Duncan-Smith asked whom the "we" in the memorandum referred to. Sir Geoffrey said he did not know. Mr Willetts should be asked. Later Sir Geoffrey suggested that when his conversation with Mr Willetts about the Hamilton case took place he had not even been aware that the MP was also a government whip and would report the discussion. "I did not assume he was a whip. I had no impression he was speaking to me as a whip. I did not recall my having a conversation knowing that he was addressing me as a whip," he said. When MPs last night expressed surprise at Sir Geoffrey's suggestion, as he was an officer of the Tory backbench 1922 executive committee and a former whip, he was adamant that it was possible he would not have realised. Sir Geoffrey later admitted "it might have been better" if another government whip, Andrew Mitchell, the Tory MP for Gilling, had not been appointed to the privileges committee. He agreed with Labour's Dale Campbell-Savours that he would be "surprised" to learn that Mr Mitchell had been in contact with the Chief Whip during the critical period within days of Mr Willetts' memo being transmitted to the whips' office. "Yes, that would have been a breach of the undertaking I had," said Sir Geoffrey. Before finishing his evidence Sir Geoffrey launched a fierce attack on the Guardian. An editorial in yesterday's paper was, he said, "outrageous" in suggesting that he had not followed constitutional history. The case against Mr Hamilton had been a civil, not a criminal, matter. To have gone ahead with an inquiry would have made it difficult for both the Guardian and Mr Hamilton to have received justice. In his opening remarks Mr Willetts agreed that it would have been wrong to influence Sir Geoffrey. "I didn't seek to influence him or put pressure on the committee," he insisted. In that case, Mr Newton said, was not his note of the conversation inaccurate? Mr Willetts replied: "The underlying consensus of Sir Geoffrey's are reflected in the notes. I accept that it imposes a rather artificial structure on what was a brief conversation. The particular words are mine and not his." Mr Willetts said their exchange had taken place in what was, in effect, his first "working week" as a member of the whips' office. Asked whether Sir Geoffrey realised he was speaking to him in that capacity, Mr Willetts replied: "I knew I was a whip and was talking to him on that basis." "As Sir Geoffrey made clear, I did not think that he was saying anything to me that he would not have said to any other colleague. I did not seek him out. He did not seek me out. We bumped into each other. The Neil Hamilton case was the main story of the day. Everyone was talking about it. Sir Geoffrey was exercised because he felt that the No 10 press office had been claiming that [Mr Hamilton] had been cleared on the Committee of Members' Interests." Asked by Mr Duncan-Smith about the phrase "exploiting a good Tory majority," Mr Willetts said: "Those are my words, not his. Certainly Sir Geoffrey did not use such words." Mr Willetts said that he had left the conversation with the sense that Sir Geoffrey had a practical problem of how to proceed. "I thought wrongly that the whips could advise him on it." Asked to explain the phrase "he wants advice," Mr Willetts said: "It means he was in want of advice." Sir Geoffrey had not asked for any advice.

found what Mr Willetts had written "astounding", a word he uttered in the unashamed manner of an adult admiring a child's conjuring trick. You might imagine that Sir Geoffrey would be cross with Mr Willetts for making such a serious mistake. You would be wrong. We were in the stage world of the select committee, where everyone is estimable, trustworthy and generally fragrant. Indeed, Sir Geoffrey could barely contain his admiration for Mr Willetts, a man of "intellect", blessed with "an inquiring mind", the object of his "deep respect". In spite of this, Sir Geoffrey confessed that he was probably unaware at the time that this mental colossus had actually, been made a whip. Nevertheless, Mr Willetts seemed equally admiring of Sir Geoffrey. The key point of the memo was the phrase: "he wants our advice" with the implication that this meant advice on how best to fix the committee. "This is the sentence in my note which might have been misleading," Mr Willetts said—a remark which would have been greeted by ribald laughter in any more sceptical assembly. Mr Willetts continued: "When I wrote 'he wants our advice', what I meant was 'he is in want of advice'." In the same way a mugger might argue "When I said I wanted his money, what I meant was 'I was in want of his money', mean-

ing purely, mind, that I did not have it." Some of the few tough questions came from Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour MP with dark, piercing eyes, a low insistent voice, and a shock of curly silver hair blazing in the lights, so that he looked and sounded like the recording angel who will tick off your sins on Judgment Day. Earlier, we watched the spectacular sight of the Deputy Prime Minister cornered. In the past, when people were caught bang to rights by the police, they exercised the right to silence. Now Mr Howard has abolished that. So Mr Heseltine exercises the right to noise. A confidential memo has turned up, suggesting that Hezza wanted to use civil servants to find people who would put across the Government's case. Yesterday he denied everything, noisily. If Mr Heseltine were caught climbing out of someone's front window, dressed in a mask and striped jersey, carrying a sack marked "SWAG", he would deny everything. Last night the Prime Minister said Britain has recovered its "zest": "our pop culture rules the airwaves" and "our capital has been described in an American magazine as 'the coolest city on the planet'." I found this description of the contemporary zeitgeist deeply depressing. He seems to mean that we have recovered as a nation because Chris Evans does the breakfast show on Radio 1.



Simon Hoggart
INQUIRY SKETCH: Politic event in want of truth

SIR Geoffrey Johnson Smith was questioned gently by the Commons committee on standards and privileges yesterday; it was a most merciful grilling. Sir Geoffrey is a grandee, a reminder of an age before Tory MPs were used car dealers, TV presenters and similar riff-raff. (A colleague reminds me that, he used to be a TV presenter. But that was in the days when TV presenters, like Richard Dimbleby, were far grander than most ministers.) The Leader of the House thanked him for coming. Sir Geoffrey thanked him for his thanks. The committee gently settled down to its task of finding why a government whip, Mr David Mitchell, seemed in a memo he had written, to have got hold of the idea that Sir Geoffrey had been willing to nobble the committee on members' interests, which he chaired. Sir Geoffrey was baffled that anyone should entertain such a thought. He

Standards and Privileges Committee
Chairman: Tony Newton, Leader of the House
Voting members, Conservative: Quentin Davies (Stamford), Iain Duncan-Smith (Chingford), Sir Archie Hamilton (Epsom and Ewell), Dame Jill Knight (Edgubaston), Sir David Mitchell (Hampshire NW) Labour: Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington), John Evans (St Helens N), Ernie Ross (Dundee W), Ann Taylor (Dewsbury) Liberal: Nigel Jones (Cheltenham)
Non-voting law officers: Sir Nicholas Lyell, Attorney General; Sir Derek Spencer, Solicitor General; Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, Lord Advocate; Paul Cullen, Solicitor General for Scotland



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صحة من الامم

Zaire rebels threaten new attack on refugees

Chris McGreal in Goma

THE leader of the Rwandan-backed rebels who have seized parts of eastern Zaire yesterday threatened a renewed attack on a large refugee camp unless the international community sends troops to neutralise Hutu extremists.

With early outside military intervention seeming increasingly unlikely amid divisions on the United Nations Security Council, Laurent Kabila appeared to be laying the groundwork for breaking his own ceasefire in order to launch a new onslaught against Hutu militias that are using Rwandan refugees as a shield.

Speaking as the first humanitarian aid dribbled into rebel-held areas during the day, Mr Kabila, head of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, warned that the war was about to escalate because Hutu extremists in the Mugunga refugee camp were continuing to shell nearby Goma, the provincial capital seized by rebels 10 days ago.

"These people in Mugunga, the former Rwandan army, are still shelling Goma," he said. "Can we continue to be silent when they are killing people in Goma? We must stop the killing of innocent people on our side. If we attack the camp to put out these killers the international community will start crying again; so the solution is for the international community to send troops to neutralise these people in the camps. We hope it can do something before it is too late."

Mr Kabila said his troops were 500 yards from Mugunga but resistance in the camp was proving difficult to break. He said he would accept an international force only from countries he deemed neutral. He said nations such as Sweden would be acceptable but he would prefer troops from African countries such as Mali, Zimbabwe or Ethiopia.

French soldiers would be presumed hostile because of Paris's support for Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko. The South African president, Nelson Mandela, said in a television interview yesterday that he would be prepared, in principle, to send troops as part of an international force. He said he would send a delegation to the region to gather information to allow him to decide how big a unit to commit.

Mr Kabila, speaking in the ornate living room of a Zairean general who fled with his troops as the rebels took Goma, said he would not put up with the continued Hutu attacks for the time it would take to deploy foreign troops. The first aid convoy since the war began crossed from Rwanda to Goma yesterday but it was destined for the town's Zairean residents, who have been without food delivery for a week, not the Rwandan refugees.

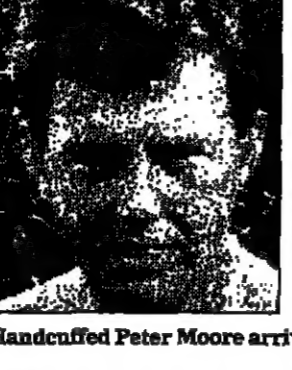
The UN overrode the Zairean government's demand that all aid should be directed through the capital, Kinshasa, and none should go to rebel-held areas, sending a small number of lorries carrying enough food to feed a few thousand people for a week. Private charities sent a dozen four-wheel-drive vehicles loaded with biscuits, medicines and blankets.

Aid groups saw the delivery as an exploratory mission to assess conditions in Goma and the possibility of gaining access to hundreds of thousands of people in the Mugunga camp and beyond. The early signs were not good. Aid workers were delayed for hours by bloody-minded officials on both sides of the frontier between Rwanda and Zaire before being herded into the Goma stadium, where they spent last night.

Mr Kabila said his rebels would allow the UN to cross through their lines to negotiate with refugee leaders in Mugunga about delivering food to the camp, which is thought to contain up to 400,000 people. Meanwhile, two Kinshasa campuses, where violent protests against the government handling of the rebellion have been spearheaded, were closed yesterday.

Troops forced students from their beds during the night and smashed roadblocks they had set up, witnesses said. Some businesses in the city closed, fearing further trouble.

Man in black — with blackest of deeds



Handcuffed Peter Moore arrives at court to face charges of murdering Henry Roberts (top), Edward Carthy, Keith Randles and Anthony Davies

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH KOLO WILLIAMS

Gay sadist 'stabbed four men to death for fun'

Unremarkable businessman 'turned into monster by night'

David Ward

ASADISTIC homosexual, who stabbed his victims to death for fun with a £25 combat knife, murdered four men in North Wales within three months, a court heard yesterday.

Alex Carille QC, prosecuting, told the jury at Mold crown court that Peter Howard Moore described one of the killings as "a job well done" and had planned to kill another man — his bank manager — but was arrested. Moore, aged 50, denies four charges of murder.

Mr Carille pointed out to the jury that Moore was wearing a black shirt and the as he sat impassively in the dock between two prison officers. "Black was his uniform and he was the man in black, with black thoughts and the blackest of deeds," he said.

"The defendant by day gave the impression of being an unremarkable businessman with some entrepreneurial flair for opening cinemas. By night he was utterly different. The nocturnal Peter Moore was one of the most dangerous people ever to have set foot in Wales."

Mr Carille said Moore, of Kinnel Bay near Rhyl, was "a homosexual of a particular kind... a violent and predatory sadist."

He told the jury of eight men and four women that Moore, who had bought three cinemas across North Wales and had planned to open a fourth, had an unhealthy interest in the Nazis. He showed the jury photographs of leather clothing, military style caps and handcuffs found at Moore's home and told them of a black truncheon Moore kept by his bed for sexual pleasure.

Mr Carille said Moore knifed Keith Randles, a security manager, 12 times on an A5 roadworks site on Anglesey last November 30. He drove home but returned to the murder scene to retrieve a black bow tie lost as Mr Randles fought for his life. Moore allegedly told detec-

tives that Mr Randles begged for his life for the sake of his grandchildren and asked why he was stabbing him. Moore allegedly said he had given a one-word answer. "I just said, 'Fun'... He looked non-plussed... He carried on screaming."

Asked whether killing gave him pleasure, Moore had replied: "Yes, there was a certain enjoyment from it. But it certainly wasn't a sexual enjoyment. It was a job well done."

Retired railway worker Henry Roberts, aged 56, was left lying face down outside his farmhouse on Anglesey last September with his trousers round his ankles and a knife wound in each of his buttocks. He had been stabbed 14 times on the front of his body and 13 on his

back. A Nazi flag that had been on Mr Roberts's wall was found at Moore's home, said Mr Carille.

He said Moore met Anthony Davies, aged 48, a crematorium worker from Colwyn Bay, on a beach used by homosexuals. He stabbed him once in the back and five times in the chest, leaving him dead at the water's edge.

The court heard that Moore met Edward Carthy, aged 28, from Birkenhead — "a drug addict and drunk" — in a gay bar in Liverpool, drove him to a lonely forest near Ruthin and stabbed him seven times. Moore is alleged to have told detectives: "I knifed him four times and killed him. He just collapsed in a heap... I stuffed him behind some trees."

Mr Carille said Moore had bought a knife in a shop in Rhyl in September last year. "He bought the item contained in this canister," he said, holding the plastic-wrapped object up to the jury. "I am not going to take it out because it is dangerous to do so and unhygienic to do so because it has on it the blood of a number of dead men." He showed the jury a similar knife, with a non-stick handle and double-edged blade.

The court heard that Moore had denied the killings until he began talking freely to a custody officer while on remand, telling him about Mr Carthy's body, then still undiscovered.

Mr Carille said Moore had killed "coldly" for fun, to relieve tension, to gratify his sadistic instincts.

The trial continues today.

Major threatens to use veto in battle over 48-hour week

continued from page 1

the working time directive represents an important point of principle," said Mr Major, who insisted that issues such as the 48-hour working week were "best resolved between employer and employee".

In his crucial passage, he said: "If the court rules against us, we will require changes in European law to reinforce Britain's protection from such legislation. Our partners know that. And they know that we shall insist upon these changes before we can conclude any new agreement [in Amsterdam]."

Entailing the performance of new industries — broadcasting, tourism, high technology — in a globalised free-trade market, he likened Britain's entrepreneurial classes to the 18th-century Elizabethans who took trade and investment around the world at greater risk.

With Michael Heseltine and other ministers also talking up the feel-good factor at the CHI conference in Harrogate — and decrying both media "pessimists" and Labour's pro-business stance — Mr Major rattled through the familiar list of Tory achievements to insist that, this time, the recovery would not stall.

"If that is so, it is a change of historic importance," he told his City audience, citing privatisation, deregulation and inward investment among his successes. "As a result, we are pulling ahead of the European field."

In yet another move to dampen voter expectations and City fears ahead of the November 26 Budget, he added: "And we'll run the message home with a prudent and sensible Budget — one that will keep us on the path of growth and prosperity for years ahead."

Biggest brewer starts black market war by ambushing Guinness sales in its pubs

Sarah Ryle on a little local difficulty

BITAIN'S biggest brewery, Scottish & Newcastle, sparked a beer war last night when it admitted that it had withdrawn Guinness from many of its 2,600 nationwide outlets in favour of its own brews.

Drinkers in London's West End were among the first to discover that landlords had been forced to pull their last pints of the black-and-white nectar in favour of cheaper alternatives. Beamish and Gillespie.

S&N brews Gillespie in Scotland, while Beamish is made in Ireland by Cour-

age, which was taken over by S&N in August last year. S&N said the withdrawal was part of an attempt to satisfy customers but refused to say how many pubs were affected.

S&N spokeswoman Frances Knox said: "The takeover of Courage meant an enlargement in the number of beers available to Scottish & Newcastle retail pubs and this has led to a review of the beers and stouts we offer."

"As a result in some pubs, Beamish and Gillespie will now be offered as an alternative to Guinness. Trials undertaken with customers proved that Beamish and Gillespie were popular alternatives and their introduction has added interest to the product range stocked in pubs."

The move took Guinness executives by surprise and was attacked immediately by trade experts who said it appeared that S&N was trying to squeeze out its competitor.

Guinness public relations director Sean O'Neill said: "We were not aware of this surprising initiative and our immediate action will be to talk to the brewery. We are naturally concerned to find out more."

"The word alternative is key, because our figures show that consumers prefer draft Guinness to other stouts. We have the biggest share of the market and our share is growing. This may explain why they have done this."

The word in one S&N-tied pub yesterday was that the price of Guinness was set to rise from £2.17 a pint (not at the top end of the range in central London) to £2.27, so the brewery withdrew it — suggesting that S&N was being squeezed by Guinness. A pint of Beamish was being offered in the same pub at £2.16.

Trade commentators speculated that S&N was not defending customers against price rises, but was seeking to boost its share of an expanding market.

Garth Williams, editor of Free House magazine, said: "Many customers will be very upset that they cannot get a pint of Guinness in their regular pub any more. This move may be seen as Scottish & Newcastle trying to grab a bit of the action back for themselves."



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

News in brief

'Like the movies' for plane birth doctor

BRITISH doctor John Heyworth said yesterday he "only thought it happened in the movies" after he responded to a call for any doctors on board from the captain of a Hong Kong-bound airliner. Mr Heyworth, 43, from Gosport, Hampshire duly stepped forward — and found himself delivering a baby girl to a Filipino woman who had gone into labour at 33,000ft. Mr Heyworth, who works at Southampton general hospital, was going to a conference in Australia when he found himself at work, aided by British Airways stewardess Karen Pitt. He said afterwards: "Fortunately the birth was quick and the baby did all the right things. Karen was a fantastic help." Mother and baby are both well in a Hong Kong hospital.

Menuhin violin appeal

YEHUDI Menuhin has appealed for corporate help to buy a 17th-century Stradivari violin to be played by young virtuoso Leland Chen. Lord Menuhin believes the instrument will be worthy of the rising star who won the Menuhin International Violin Competition. London auctioneer Phillips expect the instrument to sell for up to £700,000 when it is offered on November 27.

Knife killers sentenced

TWO thugs who knifed student Tundi Obanubi, 20, to death in the grounds of Newman college in East Ham, east London, on February 27 last year after hunting him down in a 16-storey block "like a pack of animals" following a dispute over use of a ping pong table, received life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. At their trial in May, Saed Nur, 27, of Manor Park, and student Umran Qadir, 17, from East Ham, both east London, were found guilty of murder, but the jury could not agree on the case of a third man, student Yusuf Sofu, 20, of Leytonstone, east London. Yesterday, however, Sofu was discharged by the judge after being cleared by a second jury of murder and manslaughter. The judge then lifted a ban on publication of the sentences of Nur, who was jailed for life, and Qadir, ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure. A fourth defendant, Kazi Rahman, 21, was cleared of murder, manslaughter and violent disorder at the first trial.

British Museum textile coup

THE British Museum is to open a new World Textile Centre as part of its £20 million study and store development, with a £1 million grant from the Clothworkers' Foundation. Many of the museum's 18,000 items of textiles — such as a Tahitian mourning dress of bark cloth and pearl shell presented to Captain Cook in the 18th century — were too fragile or bulky to display in the past, but may now go on show for the first time in the new centre in 1998. The textile centre will be housed in the new £20 million British Museum Study Centre, a former Royal Mail sorting office near the Bloomsbury site. — *Moss Kennedy*

T S Eliot prize shortlist

SEAMUS Heaney and Adrian Mitchell are among 10 poets on the shortlist for the £5,000 T S Eliot prize, announced yesterday. Judges Andrew Motion, Helen Dunmore and Ruth Padel picked the list of the 10 best collections of the year, and will also choose the winner of the prize donated by Eliot's widow Valerie, to be announced on January 13. Others on the shortlist are Claran Carson, Maura Dooley, John Fuller, Stephen Knight, Les Murray, Alice Oswald, Christopher Reid and Susan Wicks.

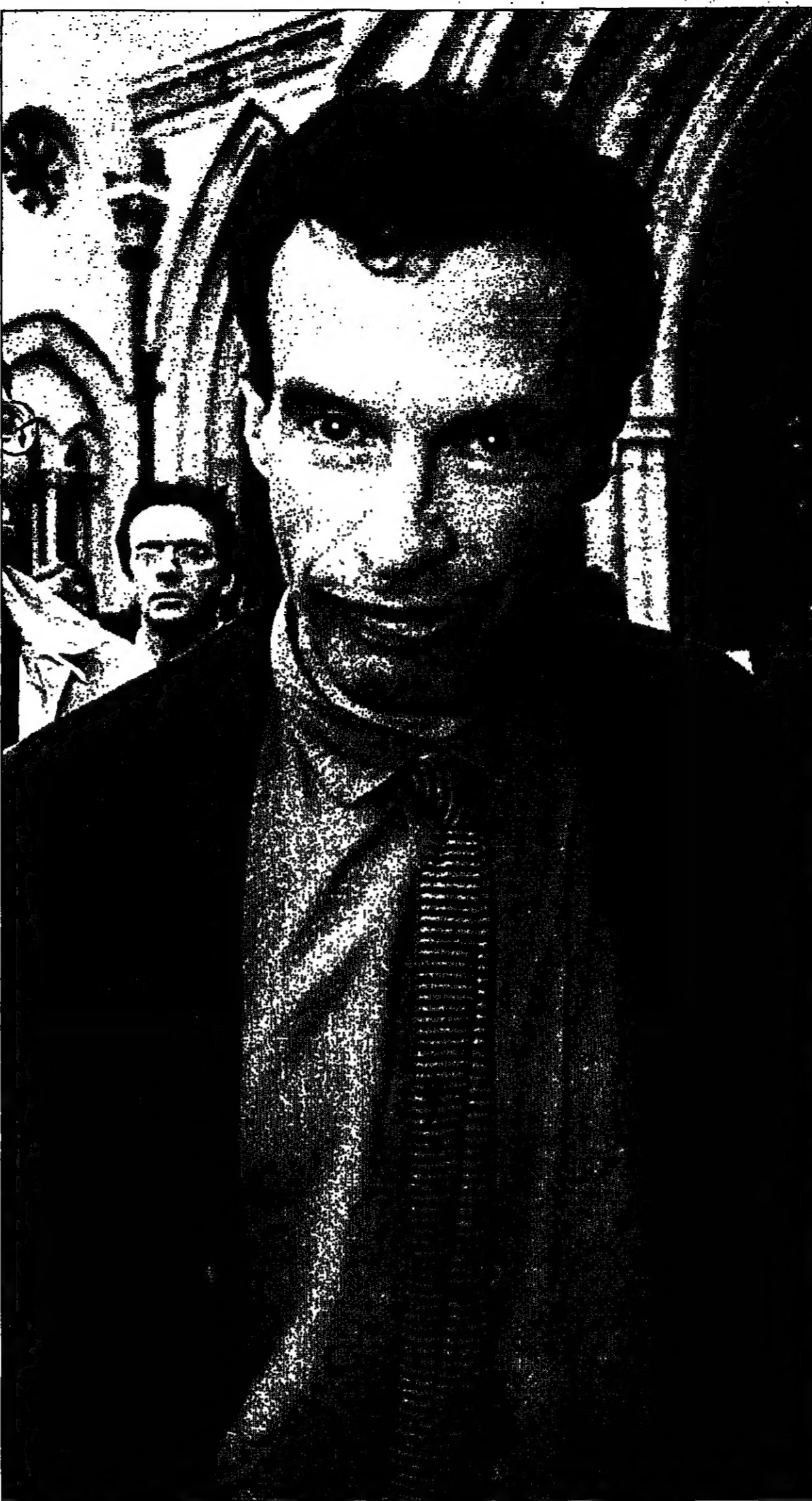
Campaign for 'veteran trees'

AN oak that was well established when William the Conqueror landed in 1066 was the focal point of a new campaign launched yesterday to stop the felling of Britain's ancient trees, when a new oak sapling was planted under its 1,000-year-old boughs in Windsor Great Park to mark the start of Veteran Tree Initiative. The campaign, launched by English Nature, aims to combat the belief that because a tree is rotten or misshapen it should be felled. English Nature said hollow trunks and dead boughs are part of the normal ageing process and should be valued, but many such trees are felled for commercial reasons between the ages of 30 and 200 years and would live far longer if allowed. Naturalist David Bellamy said: "Britain is the only country in Europe with this amazing collection of ancient trees. It is probably due to the fact that we have not had war in this country for a very long time. We need to put those ancient trees at the heart of the community."

£1m sale twice expectations

THE sale of more than 1,000 pieces of furniture and household items accumulated by a north Devon family over the past 500 years raised more than £1 million at auction yesterday. Sotheby's which handled the sale for the Chichester family on the 2,500-acre Hall estate near Barnstaple had set a target of £500,000 for the sale. — *Geoffrey Gibbs*

Injunction sought after claims of vandalism



Robert Fine at the High Court yesterday, when he sought an injunction against mature student Eileen McLardy

Woman student 'stalked' lecturer

Sarah Bosley

A SOCIOLOGY lecturer alleged in court yesterday that his life was being made miserable by female mature student who was stalking him, apparently to avenge the "improper sexual desires" she believed he once harboured for her.

Robert Fine is seeking a high court injunction to ban his former student, Eileen McLardy, a 50-year-old mother of three, from molesting or harassing him or approaching within 30ft of his home in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Dr Fine, also 50, a senior lecturer at Warwick university, told the court he believed Mrs McLardy was behind a succession of unpleasant events. His office was broken into twice, and a computer was taken. His car was attacked four times — it was broken into and the steering wheel torn off on one occasion — and it was twice driven away.

He is claiming damages for 140 separate incidents of harassment between 1994 and 1995.

Mrs McLardy denies all the allegations and is countering by claiming that she was assaulted, verbally abused and harassed by Dr Fine on various occasions. She also seeks a restraining order against him and damages.

The stalking began, it is alleged, in August 1994, after a complaint by Mrs McLardy of sexual harassment against the lecturer was thrown out by the university authorities.

Ashley Underwood, for Dr Fine, said that the former student, often with her husband Angus McLardy, would walk up and down on Newbold Common outside Dr Fine's house, appear at the end of the driveway and look in through the windows. She would parade up and down outside the house "with an eerie fixed grin on her face" until she had made sure she had been seen.

She also followed Dr Fine to and from the local swimming pool, sometimes getting into the pool when he was there. At the university, where she is still registered as a student because she has not yet taken her exams, even though she has completed her two-year degree course, she would turn up near the lecture theatre where Dr Fine was due to

speak or watch his seminar through a window.

Mr Underwood said Mrs McLardy had been a part-time student on Dr Fine's course, while nursing a sick mother and a child. "It appears she came under stress and got it into her head that Dr Fine harboured some sort of improper sexual desires toward her. This turned into a vendetta against him," he told Judge Thompson QC.

In cross-examination by Peter Goatley, for Mrs McLardy, Dr Fine said the problems began after he had words with her for insulting another student. After the following week's seminar, Mrs McLardy asked to see him. "She accused me of having sexually harassed her the previous week. That's when she first said that this could lose me my job and she said that she hoped I was not going to deny her allegation. I said I certainly was because there

'She would parade outside the house with an eerie fixed grin on her face'

was no truth to it." In lectures after that, Mrs McLardy stared at Dr Fine but was quiet, he said, although she would call to see him afterwards.

Sometimes she did aggravating things like pass a note to all the other students in the class, asking whether they had been sexually harassed by me as well."

After the disciplinary hearing dismissed Mrs McLardy's allegations, the "stalking behaviour", as Dr Fine called it, began. He told Mrs McLardy and her family that he considered her a stalker.

There were times when he felt physically threatened by "the level of venom and hatred" of her remarks to him. "She has said things like, 'I'll destroy you.'" Sometimes she would suddenly appear at night.

He had tried to ignore her, he said, but "it is very hard" to open the curtains in the morning and you see this face looking in."

Dr Fine denied the suggestion by Mr Goatley that he had struck Mrs McLardy during a visit to his elbow at the swimming pool.

The case continues.

Lords defeat for love-tug mother

Claire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THREE children in a tug of love battle must be sent back to Israel, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

The solicitor for the 24-year-old British mother said she was "absolutely devastated."

The parents, whose identity is protected by a court order, are orthodox Jews who contracted an arranged marriage in May 1991 and settled in Israel. The mother fled to Eng-

land last November, taking the children.

A High Court judge ruled last July that the children must be returned at once to their father. But the mother won an emergency appeal and a week later three Appeal Court judges reversed the decision and held that the English courts should decide their future.

In an unusual emergency ruling yesterday, the law lords overturned the Appeal Court's decision. They will give their reasons later this month.

The mother's solicitor, Helen Sowerby of the Princess of Wales's law firm, Mishcon de Reya, said her cli-

ent could not let the children return to Israel without her. She was on legal aid, and had no alternative but to accompany the children back to Israel and continue the legal battle there.

The key question the law lords had to decide was whether or not the father, aged 28, could be said to have "acquiesced" in the mother's removal of the children.

Their decision implies that they decided he did not. Under the Hague Convention on international child abduction, children are meant to be returned quickly to the jurisdiction of their home courts. But the rule need not be enforced if the parent who

stays behind acquiesces in their removal.

The Appeal Court judges said last July that both parents had involved their local rabbinical courts, the Beth Din, in the case. There was no objection to this, but the father should also have demanded his children's immediate return through the channels set up under the convention. He asked the mother to let the children spend the Passover holiday with him in Israel, promising to return them to England if she agreed. She refused, but the appeal judges said his request supported the inference that he had acquiesced in the children's removal.

Abbey repays Betjeman with a column in Poet's Corner

John Ezard

SIR John Betjeman, the late Poet Laureate who loved Westminster Abbey, was treated with honour bordering on favouritism there last night.

He got — as eminent authors usually do — a memorial in Poet's Corner. But it wasn't just a plain window tablet.

For Sir John, who died in 1984, the most lavish of rocco tablets was installed on a pillar. It was unveiled by his friend and fellow-versifier, Lady Wilson of Rievaulx, widow of the Labour prime minister. His friend, the author and soldier, Patrick Leigh Fermor, gave an address. Also present was the bomb-scarred, earnestly praying



Knightsbridge socialite Sir John created in his poem in Westminster Abbey. *Think of what our Nation stands for. Books from Boots and country lanes. Free speech, free passes. class distinction. Democracy and proper drink. Lord, put beneath thy special care. One-eighty-nine Cadogan Square.*

Secret inquiry into doctor's death diagnosis mistake

Nick Varley

DOCTOR who wrongly pronounced a woman dead yesterday appeared before an independent inquiry investigating the misdiagnosis.

Marion Meeson was called to explain the circumstances of the case of widow Maureen Jones, who collapsed at her home in Driffield, North Yorkshire, in April.

Mrs Jones, aged 59, was about to be carried to a hearse outside her home when two police officers noticed her left leg twitch. They managed to resuscitate her from what was thought to have been a diabetic coma and she was taken to Scarborough hospital, where she made a full recovery.

Dr Meeson, aged 42, refused to comment on the case as she arrived at the hearing in York which is being held in private

Oxford widens search for business school site

John Carvel
Education Editor

OXFORD university's ruling executive decided yesterday to seek an alternative site for a £40 million international business school after last week's unexpected defeat when donors voted against plans to build on a supposedly protected city centre sports field.

The 24-member Hebdomadal Council said it was not abandoning its proposal to establish a world class management studies department on the land stipulated by Wafic Said, the Middle Eastern businessman who has offered to give £20 million towards the project.

It agreed a formal resolution to call for a postal vote of the university's 3,200 dons on whether the project should go ahead on the site on Mansfield Road. But the ballot will be deferred until next term and the council will "redouble its efforts to find an alternative and central site, acceptable to both the university and the benefactor," a spokeswoman said.

The Hebdomadal Council includes Lord Jenkins, the university's chancellor, and Peter North, the vice-chancellor, who argued vehemently last week that the sports ground would be the only central site available in time to meet Mr Said's requirements.

The decision to try harder to find an alternative came after warnings from the city planning authorities that they would not be bounced into giving permission for building on the land, which was sold to the university in the 1980s on condition that it would never be developed.

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Campaign for action over teenage lawlessness stepped up as figures reveal the problems caused by hardcore were underestimated

Young offenders rampant, say police

Peter Hetherington

SENIOR police officers in an area plagued by juvenile crime yesterday pleaded for fresh initiatives to tackle teenage lawlessness after producing figures showing they had underestimated the problem of persistent offenders.

Northumbria police identified 58 youngsters — most 15 or younger — officially responsible for 1,079 crimes in Newcastle upon Tyne last year and arrested on 833 occasions.

They include one boy arrested 37 times in a year, who was a thief and burglar at 11, and another thought to have committed at least 300 crimes. He has been arrested 64 times in three years. Six months ago he stole an army motorcycle and an automatic rifle — both later recovered — after absconding from a remand centre.

But on the assumption that the 58 have committed an average of 7.8 crimes for every arrest, the report estimates that they could have been responsible for a staggering 6,500 crimes last year.

The 58 were identified from 400 case studies prepared on young offenders, with most arrests at the end of last year in an attempt to assess the true scale of juvenile crime. Young criminals were graded in five categories from "most persistent offenders" to "minor".

After contacting other forces, from Cumbria to Wiltshire, Northumbria says the

Case 1

TEENAGER, just turned 15, has been arrested 23 times this year with eight court appearances "some of them multiple" according to police report. Came into care of local authority in 1987. Regularly absconds. Stolen almost all fixtures and fittings from one home. "Clever... steals with professional expertise," the report says. Earlier this year was said to have moved into category of Block Offending. At present on bail facing seven more charges.

Case 2

BOY aged 15, arrested 37 times in 12 months. First came to attention of police in October '92 for offences ranging from burglary and theft to damage. First given a conditional discharge. Since then offences include taking cars without the owner's consent, failure to appear at court and absconding from secure units. Imposition of evening "curfews" as a condition of bail seemed to have had little effect.

Case 3

BOY, aged 15, father in jail. Arrested almost 70 times since 1992 for taking cars, burglary, theft and more petty vandalism. Many crimes undertaken while on bail or after absconding from council care. Police claim he can be linked, at least indirectly, with almost 300 offences. Earlier this year allegedly stole an army motorcycle and automatic rifle. Regularly released on bail only to disappear. Police say he is out of control.

persistent offenders, said last night. "The report has shown that this is a much larger problem than had previously been recognised. Communities have to be protected from a relatively small number of young criminals."

Police files detail a hardcore of young offenders, too young to be placed in secure accommodation, who, officers say, have what amounts to a licence to commit serious crimes.

Surveillance teams from intelligence units are targeting persistent offenders. Young informers also form part of the intelligence network.

Chief Inspector Keith Felton, in charge of operations in Newcastle's West End command area, said officers were frustrated by the inability of the judicial system to cope with young offenders.

"We have shown that if these people are in custody crime levels are reduced, but we have to look at ways of improving these young criminals as individuals and I am not convinced that locking them up always does that — although it does improve the lives of people in the area."

The Government responded

Forces push for shake-up of youth justice

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE disclosure by Northumbria police of information on 58 youngsters responsible for more than 1,000 crimes is the latest stage in the police campaign for a shake-up of the youth justice system.

The campaign to highlight the problems posed by persistent young offenders has been running since the early 1990s when police first went public on the criminal records of children dubbed "Ratboy" and "Spiderboy". They showed that these young teenagers were "one-boy crime waves".

The Government responded

by promising to set up a national network of privately run secure training centres to hold and educate the 12 to 14-year-olds concerned. At the same time, the Department of Health promised to expand the number of 285 local authority secure places for teenagers in trouble by a further 170 places. That was in 1993.

Both the Home Office and the Department of Health confirmed yesterday that so far neither pledge has been fulfilled. Contracts for two of the five promised secure training centres have been awarded to Tarmac and Group 4, but building has not yet started. Negotiations are still going on about where the other three will be built.

As far as the extra 170 local

authority secure places are concerned, they will not all be available until the middle of next year, said a Department of Health spokesman.

In the meantime, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has promised new remedies, including curfew orders enforced by electronic tags for children as young as 10.

Rob Allen, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the extra 170 secure places were already partly spoken for to fulfil a long-standing commitment to end the remand in prison of 15- and 16-year-olds and to house the teenage criminals convicted of murder and serious crimes.

However, some will be used to allow the courts to remain 12- to 16-year-olds directly to local authority secure units.

"The police underestimate the powers available not necessarily to the courts but to the local authorities," said Mr Allen. "Most of these youngsters do end up being placed in secure accommodation. They are arguing that courts and police should be given these powers directly."

Last Post stills world's busiest airport

Nation heeds plea for work day homage to war dead

Stuart Millar on the sound of silence

AT 11am yesterday, the world's busiest airport fell silent. The roar of jet engines was replaced by a higher sounding Last Post before thousands of passengers and staff paused in quiet tribute to the nation's war dead.

It was a remarkable scene repeated across the country as millions of people marked the first time that the silence — commemorating the end of the first world war at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 — had been held on a weekday since the 1930s. Since the tradition of commemorating Armistice Day was suspended during the second world war, the silence has been observed on the nearest Sunday.

But yesterday, the public marked what has been dubbed the "people's silence". The Royal British Legion, which led the campaign for the revival of a fixed November 11 silence, said the response was overwhelming. It estimated that at least two-thirds of the country had taken part — compared with around half last year when



German-born Angela Buddo and Ken Copeland, staff at Newcastle Central station, observe the silence. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM FINNEY

November 11 fell on a Saturday.

Groups which have marked Armistice Day for years welcomed nationwide recognition of the silence. A spokesman for the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which observed the silence at the Cenotaph in London on Sunday, said: "We feel there is a certain symbolism about the 11th itself and we are pleased to see it is now getting proper recognition."

BBC1, ITN and Sky were

among television stations which fell silent for the two minutes. They were joined by many radio stations including BBC Radio 2 and Virgin.

Even the worlds of commerce and justice were brought to a halt. On the giant trading floor at the futures exchange in the City of London, 2,500 men and women in brightly coloured jackets stopped their frantic activity at the sound of a bell.

"They just stood where they were for two minutes," said a visitor. "Most looked

down at the floor and were obviously taking it seriously."

At court 13 of the High Court in London, the libel action brought by former Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds was entering its closing stages. As 11am approached Mr Justice France, a former captain in the Coldstream Guards, led the packed courtroom to its feet in silent contemplation.

The Warwickshire town of Bedworth also remembered. Ex-servicemen and women

from the United States joined locals in the only town which has observed Armistice Day for generations. After the Last Post was sounded by Royal Marine buglers and the two minute silence passed, a million blood-red poppy petals fell on the town from a Douglas DC3 Dakota.

Ron Parsons, secretary of the local British Legion branch, said: "This parade has been going on since I can remember, and it will go on well after I'm gone... We owe them that much."

A new light on the 'lucky' wars and the 'hard' wars

John Ezard on army records

THE brief, lucky war of the romantic film star Ronald Colman, and Joe Stone's longer, pitiable time in the trenches, are revealed in papers made newly available by the Public Records Office.

Colman got an honourable discharge with a sprained ankle after nine months' service. He went on to play heroes like Beau Geste. His biographers boasted of his "wound".

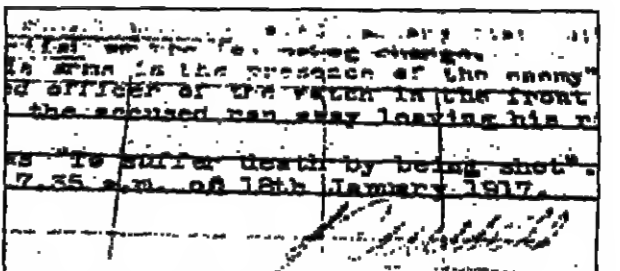
Stone fought through the worst year of the 1914-18 war and died, psychiatrically ill and disgraced, in front of a firing squad with a letter starting "Dear Daddy" in his pocket. His widow and daughter were at first refused a war pension.

Few had heard of him until the records office disclosed his official documents in an exhibition at Kew. With Colman's, and those of the war poet, Ivor Gurney, and the painter, Stanley Spencer, they are among the first batch of first world war personal records to be released.

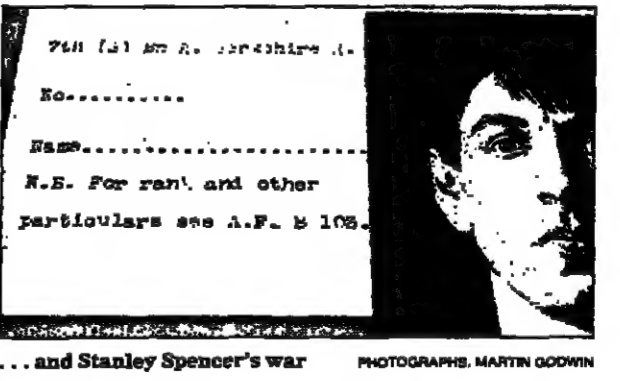
They cover only 8 per cent of the millions of British soldiers who fought



Film star Ronald Colman in the exhibition at Kew...



... the record of the execution of Joe Stone in France...



... and Stanley Spencer's war

But the office, which has had £350,000 in National Lottery funding for a pilot project, hopes to make available the records of a further 25 per cent within five years.

The project involves microfilming 33,000 boxes of papers retained for 75 years because of their "personal sensitivity". It will be seized on by social historians eager to find out the height, weight and background of the armies.

But it tells a wider story, and resurrects the tragedies of battle-worn men like Joe Stone, of the Durham Light Infantry.

Enlisting in 1915, Lance Sgt Stone was court-martialled and shot in 1917 after "shamefully" throwing away his rifle and fleeing when Germans attacked his trench at Arras. His medical papers said he was in a nervous state and had trouble walking. But the battalion doctor certified that he was physically fit.

A military prisoner who cleaned away the traces of the execution wrote: "I could tell you of the silence of the military police after reading the letter from his little girl to 'Dear Daddy' and of the bloodstained show which horrified the French peasants."

In 1919 his widow was awarded a £5 a week pension, with a 6s 8d (83p) weekly gratuity for their daughter. The free exhibition at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, continues till January 17.

Heads attack retirement curbs

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

MINISTERS are facing a backlash from head teachers and college principals over moves to clamp down on the need of early retirement deals for burnt-out teachers.

Heads fear they will be left with a resentful rump of teachers in their mid-50s who had expected to retire early and will be unable to recruit new blood. Morale would suffer and staff costs would rise, fear and start costs would rise, and the head teachers' bodies and the Association of Colleges are telling the Government. Some are predicting sackings.

Head teachers last week rounded on Eric Forth, the Education Minister, at what participants called a stormy meeting to protest against the changes.

From April, local education authorities, schools and colleges will have to bear the extra costs of early retirement which have been met by the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

Fears of a looming teacher shortage, combined with a warning from Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General — Parliament's financial watchdog — that the teachers' pension scheme was deep in debt, have pushed ministers into announcing the measure. The Government also hopes to make savings — money heads say will be lost to schools and colleges.

More than 150,000 teachers have taken early retirement or resigned because of ill health in the past 10 years — three times the number who have left work at the normal retiring age. With retirement

not in the interests of the children.

"If you do not let people retire you retain the most expensive teachers and do not replace them with cheaper new teachers so there will be a net increase in the cost of the teaching force."

John Brennan, the Association of Colleges' director of development, said colleges faced with financial difficulties would no longer be able to offer compensation packages and would have to resort to making staff redundant. "It is going to become a much more painful process for many institutions. A lot of principals have been jumping up and down about it."

Colleges also fear their employer contributions could go through the roof after 2000 because the Government has not been paying enough into the superannuation scheme.

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Alarm over urban foxes 'ill founded'

Stuart Millar

WILDLIFE experts yesterday moved quickly to calm public fears over foxes after reports that a baby was attacked as he lay in his pram.

Five-month-old Phillip Sheppard, from Croydon, south London, was recovering at home yesterday after being mauled by what his parents said was a fox in the family's conservatory last week. He was taken by ambulance to the Mayday hospital, Croydon, where he was treated with antibiotics.

His father Marc, a computer consultant aged 37, said he had complained to Croydon council last month about the number of foxes which roam the streets at night after he found a pack of seven in his garden. The council said



Urban fox... no real threat, say conservationists

little to fear. A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "Urban foxes have never posed much of a problem to people or domestic animals and we don't think there is a major problem."

Matthew Frith, conservation manager of the London Wildlife Trust, said: "This is a very atypical example. Urban foxes have become less shy, but they are not really aggressive."

While foxes have long been attracted to the suburbs by leafy undergrowth and a plentiful food supply, conservationists believe they are moving into cities in search of new territory.

While no detailed national figures are available, the latest estimates show 215 fox family groups in Edinburgh and 633 in Glasgow. According to Mr Frith, foxes are frequently sighted in Oxford

Street and in Soho Square in central London.

"As their numbers grow, the males get displaced to find new territories. The territories are smaller, so there is a greater density of urban foxes now."

He warned local authorities against taking hasty action. "We are told by councils that they are coming under pressure from residents. But our worry is that they will do this without looking at the long-term impact."

Martin Hemmington, of the National Fox Welfare Society, said: "Most people who have foxes in their garden don't even know about it, and most of them welcome the animals."

He dismissed fears that urban foxes carried disease. "Urban foxes are more healthy than those in the countryside."

Scandal feeds on Patten's silence

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong reports on a mystery resignation and allegations of secrets leaked to China

IN A colonial coda worthy of John Le Carré, the Hong Kong governor Chris Patten is struggling to hold a line of secrecy in a murky whodunit featuring allegations of secrets betrayed to China, the Order of the British Empire and a crossbow murder in Canada.

Hong Kong's elected legislature has formed a select committee to investigate and has served notice it may summon the former Conservative Party chairman to testify in a saga that has been gathering momentum since the mysterious departure in July of the colony's director of immigration, Laurence Leung.

The government has chosen to cover this whole affair in a shroud of secrecy," said Selina Chow, a member of the Legislative Council, which began its investigation on Friday. "We have to find out if this secrecy is justified. The government must be brought to account."

In the final countdown to the handover on July 1 next year, such matters are of concern outside Hong Kong. After his current stop in London, Mr Patten will travel to Paris and Bonn later this week to assure the French and German governments of the integrity of Hong Kong's immigration service and lobby for visa-free access for the territory's residents after 1997.

Mr Leung's "resignation," announced in a terse statement on Saturday, July 6, seems to have taken even Mr Leung by surprise: he had to go back to clear his office. Nor was he given any of the tributes befitting a holder of the OBE.

Mr Leung's daughter, nearly four years ago. A 22-year-old student at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, she died by death after being hit by a crossbow bolt as she walked to her car on the institute's campus in January 1993.

Anonymous donors offered a reward of C\$300,000 (£117,150), one of the largest in Canadian history, but the motive and identity of the killer remain unknown. Some claimed the murder was a contract killing by Chinese triads, but this was never proven.

The government's silence on Mr Leung's resignation had only encouraged rumours, said Elizabeth Wong, a member of the investigating panel. "This whole thing will come out in the wash," she said. "There were vital bits of information missing. We have been given a very incomplete picture."

Mr Leung broke months of silence last week with a letter to the South China Morning Post declaring a "clear conscience" and denying any wrongdoing. "I can say categorically that all the allegations which appeared in the press recently are unfounded."

Among allegations cited by legislators speaking under parliamentary privilege are claims, all so far unsubstantiated, that he may have revealed to China the names of civil servants secretly holding British passports and of Chinese dissidents resident in the territory.

China's top official on Hong Kong, Lu Ping, initially joined the chorus demanding an explanation for Mr Leung's resignation. Seizing on an opportunity to needle Mr Patten, he complained that Mr Leung had "hastily packed up his things and left in a few hours". China's curiosity quickly died. It has not uttered a public word on the matter since.

Mr Patten, an outspoken champion of open and accountable government, now finds himself in the embarrassing position of being seen to defend secrecy. But there is no sign of any retreat from stonewalling.

"We are going to stick to the script," said Mr Patten's spokesman, Kerry McGlynn. The secretary of the civil service, Lam Woon-kwong, has been summoned to appear before the select committee next week.

Support for British nationals

CHRIS PATTEN, right, is privately supporting growing demands that a solution be found for 5,000 British nationals facing a stateless future under Chinese rule, writes Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor.

Mr Patten yesterday said there had been no change in the government's position. "I last discussed the issue with the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, a couple of weeks ago, but I didn't get a new or different line on that occasion," he said.



Patten's manifesto, page 12

Jonathan Freedland in Washington reports on a softer line on the controversial Helms-Burton law

Clinton likely to hold fire on Cuba

THE Clinton administration is likely to delay once again the toughest of its anti-Cuba measures, White House sources said yesterday. Officially, Washington is seeking proof that its foreign allies are taking their own action against Havana before it will agree to suspend Title III, allowing US citizens to sue foreign companies holding property seized during Cuba's 1959 revolution.



A Castro supporter brandishes his photograph, taken with the late Chilean president Salvador Allende, at a rally in Santiago. PHOTOGRAPH: JOSE AGUIERO

Herro-American summit in the Chilean capital, Santiago, jointly condemned the law yesterday. In their first such concerted action, the 23 leaders urged the US to "reconsider the application of the law, which goes against international principles".

Washington has appointed Stuart Eizenstat, a former ambassador to the EU and current commerce department official, as a special envoy to placate allies over the Helms-Burton affair. He faces an uphill task: he was pelted with eggs when he arrived in Mexico on his first diplomatic shuttle mission.

Several of America's allies had hoped a re-elected Mr Clinton might soften his stance on Cuba. He had initially opposed Helms-Burton, only agreeing to sign it when Havana sparked a furor by shooting down two planes piloted by Cuban-American activists off the island's coast last February.

Diplomats reckoned Mr Clinton made the move to win over vocal emigre Cuban communities in the electorally crucial states of New Jersey and Florida, both of which he carried last week.

With that pressure removed, some observers hoped he might push Helms-Burton aside and even reconsider the 35-year-old economic embargo on Cuba. But White House sources warned yesterday that was unlikely, and Washington would maintain its current two-track policy of cutting ties with the Cuban government, while trying to strengthen links with the Cuban people. To that end, the administration hopes to loosen the rules on non-governmental, academic, religious and media contacts with Havana — as it did before the February shoot-down.

News in brief

Jordan gives Iraq \$35m helping hand

JORDAN has agreed to supply sanctions-hit Iraq with \$35 million (about £22 million) worth of urgently needed goods, the state news agency Petra said. It said Jordan's trade and industry minister, Ali Abu al-Ragheb, and his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammed Mehdi Saleh, agreed at a meeting on Sunday night for Jordan to export vegetable oil, detergent, soap and fertilizer to Baghdad.

The goods were in addition to a 1996 trade protocol under which Jordan has supplied Baghdad with \$200 million worth of food and medicine exempted from the United Nations' trade sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Trade ministry officials declined comment on the report yesterday, but Jordanian businessmen say Iraq has been seeking an increase of about \$50 million in next year's protocol with Jordan.

Under the 1996 accord, just over \$300 million was deposited yearly in an escrow account at Jordan's Central Bank to pay Jordanian firms for exports of food and medicine to Iraq. In return, Jordan received about 70,000 barrels of low-priced Iraqi oil per day. — Reuters, Amman.

University closed after riots

THE Zambian government ordered the closure of the country's biggest university yesterday after student riots in which 17 British Airways crew members were injured. Police used teargas and batons to disperse students demonstrating against the blocking of a planned march to the presidential residence in opposition to plans for general elections scheduled for November 27.

A student leader was arrested and several others were slightly injured in the capital, Lusaka, as police dispersed the demonstrators, who had planned to call on President Frederick Chiluba to reopen talks with the opposition, and possibly suspend the election until all parties agreed on rules.

The riot was the second in three days on the campus. On Saturday, 17 BA crew members were injured when students attacked their bus with stones. Police said four were flown to South Africa for specialist treatment. — Reuters, Lusaka.

Spy row before Czech poll

THE acting director of the Czech state intelligence agency, BIS, resigned yesterday amid allegations that it spied on a cabinet minister, raising tensions in the ruling coalition days before key elections.

Ivo Strejcek, a government spokesman, said the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, had accepted the resignation of Stanislav Devaty, after allegations the BIS spied on the deputy prime minister, Josef Lux, and then tried to cover up its actions. Mr Devaty, a controversial protégé of Mr Klaus, resigned four days before voting begins in Senate elections, the first test of the centre-right coalition government since it lost its lower house majority six months ago. — Reuters, Prague.

Indian fishermen feared dead

HOPES are fading fast for more than 1,300 fishermen missing for five days after a cyclone devastated India's south-east coast, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state said yesterday.

If fears prove correct, nearly 2,000 people are likely to have been killed by the rains, 110mph winds and 10ft tidal waves, officials said. "Their fate is not known. All of them could be dead," Chandrababu Naidu, the chief minister, said of the missing fishermen at a press briefing. "Helicopters which flew over the Bay of Bengal could not locate them," he said. Hundreds of corpses have already washed ashore. — Reuters, Hyderabad.

Crackdown on strike support

THE doctors and nurses are striking in protest at the non-payment of increased allowances, which they had been promised after the civil servants' strike in September. President Robert Mugabe's government has taken an extremely antagonistic stance: refusing to negotiate, sacking all workers who take part and arresting strike leaders when they go back to work.

Third former leader forced to appear in S Korean trial

IN A dramatic twist to the appeals of convicted former South Korean president Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, the high court said yesterday it would force a third former head of state to appear.

Burma tries to play down mob attack on Suu Kyi

AS SENIOR Burmese officials sought yesterday to distance the junta from attacks by a mob on the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade at the weekend, after the incidents drew strong condemnation from foreign governments, which Rangoon is trying to cultivate.

Chinese revolt on taxes

INFURIATED by heavy fees, demonstrating peasants broke into government buildings and destroyed public property in south China, killing one village leader and injuring many others, a Hong Kong newspaper reported yesterday.

50,000 flee Afghan fighting

FIERCE fighting between the Islamic Taliban militia and their opponents has forced up to 50,000 people to flee their homes in north-west Afghanistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

The government published ultimatums in the state-owned newspaper. Headlines announced that all strikers were fired and that expatriates would be hired to replace them. However, salaries for medical staff are well below international standards.

The acting minister of public service, Nathan Shamu-yarira, attacked the strike during an appearance on state-owned television on Sunday night. "The organisers are seeking a political objective," he said.

John McCain, the Republican senator who met the junta's powerful secretary-general, Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, yesterday, said the attacks were "unacceptable" and urged the junta to commit itself to a timetable for drafting a new constitution and holding elections.

Several hundred peasants started the rally in September, holding banners that said: "Down with corrupted officials". The protest led to revolts in neighbouring villages, and a local leader was beaten to death by angry peasants. After subsequent revolts, the authorities gave in. — AP, Hong Kong.

The union leaders, who were later released, said they had been detained to prevent them from speaking at the demonstration. Mr Tsvangirai announced that the union would call a two-day general strike starting today.

Chun was sentenced to death in August for mutiny and treason in connection with a 1979 coup and a massacre of demonstrators in 1980. He was also convicted of bribery. Roh was jailed for 32-and-a-half years on similar charges. — Reuters.

Japan described the incidents as "extremely regrettable" and said it would ask the junta to show restraint in its dealings with Ms Suu Kyi. The European Parliament was shown yesterday a videotaped appeal by Ms Suu Kyi for economic sanctions. She also warned that public tolerance in Burma was wearing thin and European countries should act before it was too late.

One big concern for the junta is the reaction of Asean (the Association of South-East Asian Nations). Burma is seeking to become a full member next year, but the attacks are likely to add to the unease voiced by Thailand and the Philippines, which are both Asean members.

Giving the game away

No cheers for Mr Heseltine's cheerleaders

AS a rule, what is said in private is invariably closer to the truth than what is said in public, and this is especially so with politicians. That is why private or secret political documents are almost always more illuminating than published ones.

The documents relate to a series of ministerial meetings chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister in July on improving standards in the public services. The ultimate goal of these Heseltine seminars may indeed have been, as they claim, to improve standards, an aim with which no one could possibly disagree.

The consequences are detailed in the documents published by Mr Prescott. Any sensible person who was confronted with the critical stories about the health service, local schools or the emergency services which were coming from the service providers might stop and listen to them.

Mr Heseltine's seminars could not bring themselves to take such a logical and empirical course. Instead, their first decision was to reaffirm the political correctness of their own policies, irrespective of the evidence that those policies were harmful.

Yet the greatest admission is yet to come. "Concepts such as improving efficiency and value for money do not generate public enthusiasm," Mr Heseltine concludes. No one who has worked in the public services could possibly disagree with that.

Given that so many newspaper reviewers have described the film Crash as "depraved" (Crash movie on "auto eye" collision course, November 9), are we to understand that they themselves have become "depraved and corrupted"?



Letters to the Editor

The Lords a-leaping

YOUR article (Blair to scrap Lords reform, November 9) mentions the Salisbury Convention, which states that Conservative peers would not use their in-built majority in the House of Lords to block or defeat measures which are contained in the Labour Party election manifesto.

When we debated reform of the House of Lords in July, I put a specific question regarding the Salisbury Convention, which was not answered by Lord Strathclyde.

I then wrote to Lord Strathclyde asking for an assurance that, if a proposal to abolish the hereditary right to sit and vote was in the Labour Party manifesto and a Bill to put this into effect received the consent of the Commons, the Conservative Opposition in the Lords would undertake not to thwart such a measure.

Lord Strathclyde replied that a Conservative Opposition in the Lords would observe the Salisbury Convention. Such an assurance could not have been given without the express authority of the Leader of the House, Lord Cranborne.

THE great beauty of the British constitution is that it does not exist. There are conventions for the way we are governed to be followed or adapted, according to the needs of the time.

Lord Carter, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

IF Tony Blair really thinks that deferring the abolition of hereditary peers' voting rights will help him get the reform of his proposed constitutional reform through the House of Lords, he must have taken complete leave of his senses.

Hereditary peers, now faced with only a vague future designed to protect minors, are more likely to conclude that if Blair can so easily abandon one reform, then he can eventually be forced to abandon others as well, and so redouble efforts to frustrate and delay devolution and a Bill of Rights.

P J Deer, Shirelake Close, Oxford OX1.

Our depraved censors

THE OBSCENE Publications Act, when allowed to be enacted, seeks to prohibit "that which would tend to deprave and corrupt", presumably the logic being that people who have become depraved and corrupted are now evil, and threats to society.

Some people are upset by images of people actually enjoying sex, but there is a much dished solution to this problem - if you don't like it, then don't go and see it.

I AM incandescent with rage that the Daily Mail or Mary Whitehouse should believe they have any right to influence what I may or may not be permitted to watch.

WHEN there is the danger of mere representations of excessive violence and unacceptable behaviour, the Government, in the form of Virginia Bottomley, soars into action to prevent them - no anguishing over the definition and application of terms such as "violence" and "unacceptable".

WHY DOESN'T VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY BAN REAL CAR CRASHES?

Richard Fontet, 37 Cambridge Avenue, Edinburgh EH6 5AW.

family and other public figures, and of the demonising of innocent members of the public, whose only crime is to share the same hobby as the latest nutcase to go on the rampage?

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Richard Fontet, 37 Cambridge Avenue, Edinburgh EH6 5AW.

Still hot for British Gas

AS another victim of a British Gas service contract (Letters, November 9), might I suggest that, rather than simply belabouring British Gas, we might draw conclusions for the future.

British Gas, in the name of "efficiency" (ie cost-cutting), has sacked so many of its workforce that it is unable to do the job it is paid for.

WHEN there is the danger of mere representations of excessive violence and unacceptable behaviour, the Government, in the form of Virginia Bottomley, soars into action to prevent them - no anguishing over the definition and application of terms such as "violence" and "unacceptable".

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It's still the economy

But Mr Major is out of touch on working hours

WITH its familiar recitation of the Government's economic achievements, the Prime Minister's Guildhall speech last night must have sounded rather unoriginal to many, especially coming from a man facing probable electoral defeat.

Yet, in the longer term, he is surely right to believe that the Conservatives' best chance of winning the election lies in concentrating on the economy. There is method in this choice of priorities.

THE headline-grabbing part of the speech was its sabre-rattling over Europe. Hours before the Government is expected to lose today's European court judgment on working hours, Mr Major threatened once again to deadlock next year's inter-governmental conference unless Britain can be exempted from the social protections which the European Union is now trying to establish as a counterweight to the single market.

again behind a Thatcherite approach which combines hostility to Europe with hostility to social regulation. This will go down well with many Conservatives, but it is out of touch with majority opinion in this country. Most people rightly support controls over working conditions. They don't want to be forced to work excessive hours. They may or may not like the European Union very much, but they undoubtedly like what it is trying to do in this field.

Yet, in the longer term, he is surely right to believe that the Conservatives' best chance of winning the election lies in concentrating on the economy. There is method in this choice of priorities.

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Enough is not enough

Distribution is the key to world hunger

THE PARADOX facing the World Food Summit in Rome this week is no less grim for being very familiar. At an aggregate level, the world still has enough to eat. But individual people do not eat around an aggregate table.

A host of non-governmental agencies have issued briefings for Rome; they all make compelling sense. The Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University puts the problem succinctly. Cases of genuine food shortage (after floods in South Asia or civil wars in central Africa) are relatively rare. "All over the

world, it is the poor who go hungry" - never the rich. The World Development Movement points out that even in the US an estimated 30 million people suffer from malnutrition. The global food market, dominated by a few giant corporations, makes matters worse. Dependence on food imports creates rural unemployment and insecurity. Food aid is diminishing as the market takes over.

The Rome conference is already being written off as a "talking shop". In spite of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's efforts, no new money is expected to be generated. Of the G7, only the host country, Italy, is sending a senior figure. The crisis in Zaire will not be directly addressed. Please, just for once, could the world's leaders surprise us by taking seriously what remains the world's biggest shame?

Branded

SUSPENDING the self-proclaimed "scientific racist" Chris Brand (Lecturer in race row suspended for defending paedophile sex, November 9), Edinburgh University said: "We have no truck with the condoning of paedophile acts which transgress laws designed to protect minors."

This is illogical. Since when has being a university lecturer meant that one's personal views must coincide with the university's? The consequence of such a policy or atmosphere can only be to inhibit original thinking. Academics should be judged on the quality of their research and teaching, not on the conduct of their personal life or views.

Peter Martin, Oriel College, Oxford. Chris Harding, St Bennet's Hall, Oxford.

A foggy day in London town

YOUR case against introducing charges to the British Museum (Leader, November 9) is based on dubious grounds. One argument you make is that attendances will fall, citing figures for the Victoria & Albert and Natural History museums. However, have we any accurate measure of attendances for these institutions in pre-charge days, and for the British Museum today, and, if so, how are they arrived at?

I suggest that no such accurate measures exist. And even if it could be shown that attendances will fall, this may be compensated for by an increase in the duration of visits.

A variation of the falling-attendance argument is that charges may lead to a disproportionate fall in attendance by lower-income groups. The

balance of evidence does not, however, support this contention. In the case of the Museum of London, the opposite effect was observed, with an improvement in the socio-economic composition of attendees taking place following the introduction of charges.

Besides, it is a myth to suggest that zero admission charges bring about an even distribution in attendance across income classes, as all of the available evidence suggests that museum attendance is predominantly undertaken by the higher-income groups.

The introduction of frequent-travel tickets and the pricing of charge-free days (or hours) would overcome almost all substantive arguments against charges. (Prof) John O'Hagan, Department of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The weather during the first few days of November was quite exceptional with clear sky, bright sunshine, temperatures up into the 60s, and this led to some unexpected late records of dragonflies and butterflies.

On one day, at the western end of the valley, where the river flows down to a meander, I watched two Common Darter dragonflies phasing each other over a muddy stretch of the embankment as if it was a summer's day. Some hundred yards further on, I was even more surprised to see a pair of the same species flying upstream locked together and obviously attempting to mate. Two days later, on the common, I found our smallest dragonfly - the Black Darter - resting on a reed stem at the side of the lake. This species has a very specific habitat requirement, and the common, with several small, acidic, boggy pools sur-

rounded by thick heather was an ideal site for it. But this was my only sighting of the year, which led me to think it may well have been a wandering individual. This late record was perhaps not so unusual given the weather conditions and the fact that it was only five days later than the October 29 date quoted in Dragonflies and Butterflies of Cheshire, by R Gabb and D Kitching (1992). The butterflies enjoying these unseasonable temperatures were hibernating species - two small tortoisells and a peacock feeding on Michaelmas daisies near the old brickworks, building up their reserves for the long sleep ahead. During the last few days, Red Admirals have been regular visitors to the overripe fruit on a plum tree in a neighbour's garden, but they are not likely to survive a cold winter.

J M THOMPSON

صحنه من الامل

Lord Sheffield

Eagle of the Establishment



Sherfield... decisive

ROGER Sherfield, who has died aged 92, was a great eagle dominating his environment...

Bevin, Makins was one of a brilliant triumvirate of deputy under-secretaries under Strang...

him he was already an important and influential senior official, having won the high regard of Harold Macmillan and General Eisenhower during the war...

As a government official, Makins was notable both for his intellectual grasp of the essential points of any problem and for his forcefulness and effectiveness in advocating a policy or carrying it out when agreed.

Davis, in 1934, Makins had inherited a substantial fortune, including a collection of pre-Raphaelite pictures to which he added considerably...

ment service. He was chairman of the Hill Samuel Group and director of a number of other companies in the City, and served later in his retirement as warden of Winchester College and chairman of the governors of Imperial College, London.

He was also very active socially. His 90th birthday party took the form of a dance and in the same week he attended a dinner in his honour at All Souls, Oxford...

which involved him in important events and afforded intimate contacts with world leaders. He himself played a not insignificant part in constructing such institutions as Nato and OECD...

Patience Edney

Great exit for a fighter

PATIENCE Edney, died aged 85 in the way she would have chosen. She had been celebrating, in Spain the lives of those who like herself, were affiliated to the International Brigade...



Patience Edney... a life for others

She claimed some successes in improving conditions. She joined the Communist Party in 1939, and it found her a job running the Czech refugee fund health service for refugees pouring into Britain...

she was unusually deft at dealing with young children and people with problems, who she never patronised. Her eyes glazed over if she was asked if she had revised her political views. She might or might not manage a piercingly crisp, "No!" before changing the subject.

When young in Spain she had been escorted by Hemingway, who was interested, she said, in English girls. She found him amusing — "he spoke like he wrote — in jerks". But she was not in awe of him.

Among her most poignant memories were those of the cave by the River Ebro where a field hospital had been set up. Because of intense fighting, they had to wait for the cover of darkness to bring the wounded in and often it would be too late. She would never forget two Finnish boys, both badly wounded in the chest...

She shared in the extraordinary atmosphere of emotional public adulation. With tears streaming down their faces, the Brigaders were being offered a recognition, few of them could ever have dreamed about — making up for decades of official rank and neglect back home.

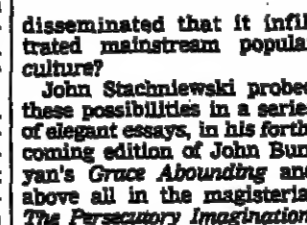
John Stachniewski

Giving life to literature

JOHN Stachniewski, who has died of a brain tumour aged 42, was a scholar and literary critic with an international reputation, whose book The Persecutory Imagination will become compulsory reading for anyone seriously interested in 17th-century literature and thought...

condemned countless human beings before they had even been born to eternal damnation and the refinement that left them with no decipherable signs through which to discover their fate.

English Puritanism and the Literature of Religious Despair. Reviewers declared it even-handed, yet bold. It is essential reading for early modern literature specialists and yet also a valuable resource for relatively inexperienced students.

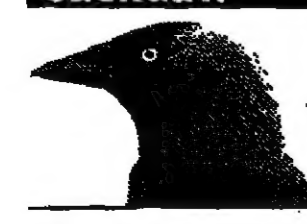


Infections scholarship

disseminated that it infiltrated mainstream popular culture? John Stachniewski probed these possibilities in a series of elegant essays, in his forthcoming edition of John Bunyan's Grace Abounding and above all in the magisterial The Persecutory Imagination.

John Stachniewski, scholar and teacher, born October 5, 1953; died September 21, 1996

Jackdaw



Bare bard

APART from being responsible for encouraging lots of Americans to come over here (at least until the IRA frights them by letting off an other firecracker), one of the charges often levelled at Shakespeare and his plays is that they're just not relevant anymore...

plainly — enjoy wearing rights. But now there's great news for less lavender-scented fans of the rhyming couplet, because the soft porn Fantasy Channel is claiming him back for civilisation.

Working do IT'S 7PM. You open a bottle and down your first glass in two gulps. It tastes rough as hell but you're feeling strangely nervous in your pants-skimming new frock.

Some uplift THE ANTIDEPRESSANT clomipramine (brand name Anafranil) is giving some users an uplifting bonus when they yawn, they have an orgasm.

requested it) with the girl from the second floor who you really hate. You've never been happier.

Plug and say Plug-and-Play — A new hire who doesn't need any training. Under Mouse Arrest — Getting busted for violating an on-line service's rule of conduct.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171 713 6065. Jonathan, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

طكتنا من الاله

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Bae given £1bn jet boost

Australian order safeguards jobs

THOUSANDS of jobs at British Aerospace will be safeguarded by a £1 billion order for up to 40 Hawk trainer jet fighters to supply the Australian air force, it emerged yesterday.

BAe will cite this latest success for the Hawk, used by 15 air forces worldwide, to argue for the British and other governments to commit themselves to production investment in the Eurofighter project.

The Hawk has generated about £12 billion in sales — of which £2 billion went back to the Treasury in taxes and levies — over 20 years, for an original Government investment of £1 billion.

Notebook Bank split over a Brown study



Edited by Alex Brummer

LABOUR'S tax and spending plans may still be opaque but Gordon Brown is being far less reticent in portraying himself and his party as inflation hawks.

soned on the whim of the Chancellor. To this wing of the Bank the more watertight Gordon Brown process might seem greatly attractive.

OIL warning
THE first traces of the effects of higher oil prices are evident from the October producer prices data.

British Steel workers to pay the price for weak demand

OUTLOOK/Chairman insists prices are on turn, reports Chris Barrie

JOB losses and an accelerated programme of cost cutting were promised at British Steel yesterday as weak demand and low steel prices pushed the privatised group into a 52 per cent slump in first-half profits.

They shall not grow old ...



Futures generation ... The boisterous Liffe exchange in the City of London fell silent for two minutes yesterday as 2,500 traders joined in the renewed national commemoration of Armistice Day

Financial data table with columns for Shares price, Workforce, and Pre-tax profits. Includes a small line graph showing trends from 1992 to 1996.

Lazards fraud case collapses

A \$4 million fraud trial involving top merchant bank Lazard Brothers has collapsed after new evidence made the Crown's position "untenable".

asked about the amount of police and public time and money absorbed by the investigation and prosecution, and about the lack of availability of the new material at an earlier stage.

Clarke 'must raise rates' Iron Maiden guru cashes in

BANK of England Governor Eddie George insisted yesterday that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will be forced to raise base rates to guarantee his inflation target.

LISA Buckingham
ALAN Taylor, the man who discovered and managed Iron Maiden, one of Britain's most successful rock bands, will share in a windfall of \$25 million following the flotation next month of Sanctuary Music Productions.

The idea behind the flotation is to give pop music impresarios the chance to own equity and to create a company that will be able to retain copyright rather than be forced to see its discoveries poached by one of the music industry's leaders as soon as they make it and need international sales and distribution.

Table of TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, and UK.

First Choice boardroom coup sees Baron resign

FRANCIS Baron, the fourth highest executive of the package holiday group First Choice, unexpectedly decided to resign yesterday, following a boardroom coup.

approach to leadership — joined the troubled company in 1993 when it was known as Mr Baron. It has since been restructured and its fortunes have improved.



approach to leadership — joined the troubled company in 1993 when it was known as Mr Baron. It has since been restructured and its fortunes have improved.

Racing

Dobbin misses Murphy's to partner The Grey Monk in Hennessy warm-up. Ken Oliver reports

Richards aiming at golden double

ORDON RICHARDS looks certain to play a leading hand in most of the big chases this season and the Greystoke trainer's horses feature in nearly every Ten To Follow list. One Man is the stable star but much is expected of Addington Boy and The Grey Monk...



Tail end of the Tuff... Horse and stable staff turn their backs on the 1996 Flat racing season which ended at Folkestone yesterday

order and he should run well. All the market leaders stood their ground at yesterday's five-day declaration stage for the Cheltenham chase.

Cheltenham she would have it all to do. She needs to get her jumping more together and I think she will probably go for an easier race before the King George VI Chase.

The Turf flat season closed at Folkestone yesterday, but Pat Eddery, who has landed his 11th jockey's title with 186 victories, was absent from the Kent track.

trainers' list in the juvenile department. The Marlborough man recorded his 50th two-year-old winner when Salty Behaviour battled back to beat Sous Le Nez by a head in the Dog Wood Stakes.

Richard Hannon tops the trainers' list in the juvenile department. The Marlborough man recorded his 50th two-year-old winner when Salty Behaviour battled back to beat Sous Le Nez by a head in the Dog Wood Stakes.

Sedgefield with guide to recent form

Table listing race results at Sedgefield, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

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Sport in brief

London Marathon is trial for Athens

THE British Athletic Federation has bowed to pressure from the country's leading athletes and made the 1997 London Marathon an official trial for Athens later in the year.

Redgrave in Hall of Fame

STEVE REDGRAVE and his Olympic gold-medal partner Matthew Pinsent are the first rowers to be admitted to the sport's Hall of Fame to be opened in Henley in 1998.

Westwood climbs rankings

ENGLAND'S Lee Westwood, who finished sixth in this season's European golf rankings, has moved to a career-best world placing of 64 after winning the Sunamitsu Visa Taiheiyo Masters in Japan.

Lucking's luck is in

ANDREW LUCKING, a 6ft 6in Yorkshire lock who plays for the Scottish side Currie, has been included in England A's 40-man squad for tomorrow's training session alongside the senior squad at Blenheim.

Manager's job for Bates

JEREMY BATES, the former British No. 1, is to take over from David Felgate as manager of men's national training for the Lawn Tennis Association.

Hat-trick draw for Southgate

SOUTHGATE and East Grinstead, contenders for the National League hockey title, have been drawn to play each other in the HA Cup for the third time in recent seasons.

Ludlow

Table listing race results at Ludlow, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

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Results

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Hero beaten. DECORATED HERO, Drained by John Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori, finished second to River Bay in the group three Prix Perth (1m) at Saint-CLOUD yesterday.

Soccer

Australia target Venables

Martin Thorpe
THE former England coach Terry Venables has been approached to coach another national side: Australia. Sources close to him have confirmed that the governing body Soccer Australia made contact about two weeks ago and that Venables is expected to hear from them again to discuss the job's precise parameters and terms. The position would not require him to move to Australia but to monitor those international-class Australian players among the 150 performing around the world. Another coach would be based in Australia. The job would fit snugly into Venables's requirements: well-paid, influential, challenging but not requiring him to move from his London base. The sources confirmed that Venables is no longer inter-

ested in the job at Blackburn Rovers but is looking at a broad range of proposals that have been made to him, not just at club level but other business opportunities concerned with football. Soccer Australia would not confirm any approach to Venables, saying that they are speaking to a number of overseas coaches about replacing Eddie Thomson, who left three weeks ago. The Australians, who last reached the World Cup finals in 1974, confirmed their place as Oceania champions with a recent 11-0 thrashing of Tahiti, but they must now come through a play-off with the fourth-placed team in Asia to win a place in France. Other possible names believed to have been targeted by Soccer Australia include Kenny Dalglish, the former Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton and the former Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff.

New verdict on Collymore today

Stan Poles
STAN COLLYMORE will learn today if his position at Liverpool is further undermined by yet more disciplinary action. During a reserve game against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday the England forward gestured towards, and appeared to swear at, journalists in Anfield's press box. Collymore's display of petulance came only 48 hours after he had been fined £20,000 for refusing to play in a Pontins League fixture at Tranmere Rovers last week. Liverpool's vice-chairman Peter Robinson, who did not attend Saturday's game, confirmed yesterday that he was looking into the matter. "We are seeking the views of a number of people who were present before deciding if action needs to be taken," he said. "But the club has not received a single complaint from supporters who were present over the alleged incident." After his investigation has been completed Robinson will discuss the affair with Liverpool's manager Roy Evans, who returns this morning after a scouting mission in Switzerland. If Collymore is deemed to have breached Liverpool's strict disciplinary code for a

second time in less than a week, he faces the prospect of another large fine. The list of prospective Blackburn Rovers managers expanded yesterday to accommodate Sven Goran Eriksson, Swedish coach of the Italian club Sampdoria. By way of an intermediary, Eriksson let it be known he would like to be considered for the post vacated last month by Ray Harford's resignation. The Rovers directors are expected to discuss who should succeed Harford with the club's benefactor Jack Walker in the next 24 hours. Ideally Blackburn would like to see a new manager in place before Saturday's Premiership meeting with Chelsea at Wood Park. Blackburn's provisional short-list includes Howard Kendall, manager of Sheffield United, the former England coach Terry Venables and Bruce Bunch, QPR's assistant manager. However, Rangers yesterday vehemently denied that Rioch had travelled north at the weekend to be interviewed by Blackburn officials. "We can categorically state that Bruce was out of the country on scouting duties while we were playing at Crystal Palace on Sunday," a QPR spokesman said.

Osman back with Cardiff

RUSSELL OSMAN, the former England defender, returned to management yesterday when he took charge of Cardiff City. Osman, 37, made 15 League appearances for Cardiff last season and will play for the Third Division side now in an emergency. The former Bristol City player-manager succeeds Phil

Neal, who is now caretaker manager at Manchester City. Charlton have completed the £250,000 signing of Birmingham's defender Gary Pool. Chris Waddle is staying with Bradford City until the end of the season after agreeing personal terms. Bobby Robson's Barcelona are to play Celtic in a friendly at Parkhead on November 26.

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for FA CUP, NATIONWIDE LEAGUE, and FA CUP - First round. Lists various football clubs and their opponents.

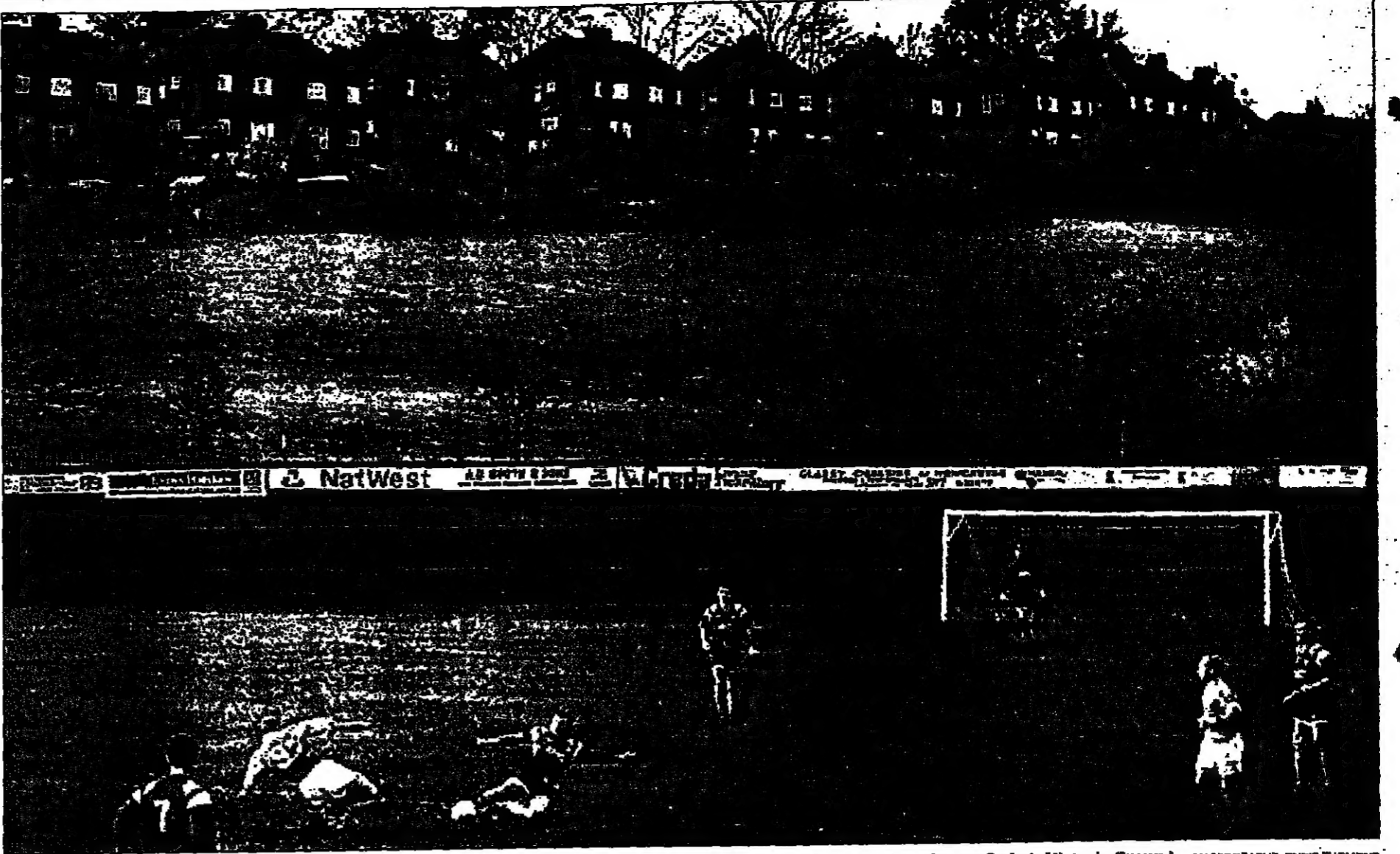
Pressure piles on Lee as City debt hits £26m

Lee, confronted by continual takeover talk and the sudden resignation of Steve Coppell as manager, increased yesterday when it was revealed that Manchester City lost more than £3.1 million last season and that debts have soared to £26 million. Shareholders will hear at the annual general meeting on December 5 that the £3.1 million loss in the season City lost their Premiership status compares with a £203,769 profit the previous year. The Maine Road debts of £26 million, up £7 million from 13 months previously, compare with total assets of £31 million. Interest charges have virtually doubled, rising from £564,000 to £1.3 million. But Lee, City's chairman, says: "Every club in the game, apart from two or three, reports losses. What the balance sheet never takes on board is the value of players." Despite the deficit, he insisted that City have no plans to sell their main player asset, the midfielder Georgi Kinkladze. The gulf between the two Manchester clubs was emphasized with the news that United's chairman and chief executive Martin Edwards has received a 39 per cent pay rise, taking his basic salary to £212,000. Edwards also received a £67,000 performance-related bonus after United's double season. With other perks, his total package is believed to be £321,000.

Team talk

Table with columns for Arsenal, Aston Villa, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bolton, Bradford, Burnley, Chelsea, Coventry City, Derby County, Everton, and Hull City. Lists player names and their positions.

The Guardian INTERACTIVE



Town centre... Newcastle's Lyme Valley stadium is flooded, covered on two sides and seats 300 but Sunday's tie takes place at Stoke's Victoria Ground

A Newcastle under no illusions

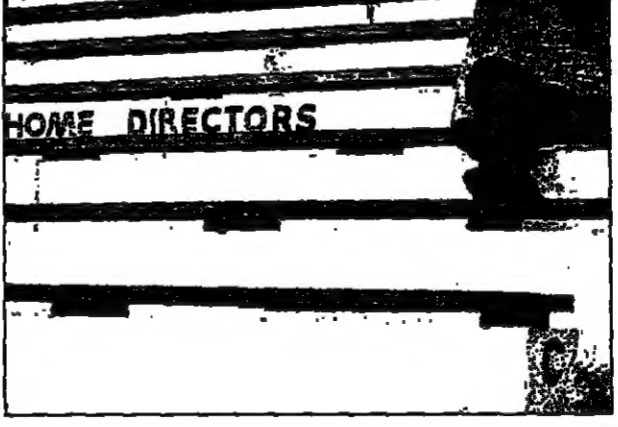
FA CUP PROFILE: Stephen Bierley visits the North West Counties side facing a tricky tie against Notts County on Sunday

AS THE Midland clubs slowly cleared yesterday morning the late autumn sun glinted on the medals of a Newcastle under Lyme pensioner as he stepped stiffly down the road to observe the two-minute silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day. In the centre of town, with the market stalls doing brisk pre-Christmas business, another old man regaled his newsgent with memories of violence of a closer hour. "I'd just drawn my pension when this young lad walks up and says 'thanks very much'. He just matched the money and ran off. I couldn't do nothing." This is Middle England on a Monday. "It's wicked, me ducks," replied the newsgent, wrestling arthritic fingers with an awkward hull. "And they've got as much chance of catching him as Town have of winning the Cup." The local police were not available to comment on such a comparison of odds but it seems safe to assume that, if a Newcastle gets to Wembley next May, it will not be the Staffordshire variety. Newcastle under Lyme stands on the lip of the Potteries; live here and you might support Stoke City, Port Vale or Cheshire's Crewe Alexandra. Everyones connected with Newcastle Town of the North West Counties Division One hopes that supporters of these

such ground barter bites another great gobbit out of a competition whose glamour, at least at this stage, is mere veneer. So far Newcastle Town have seen off Unibond Premier sides, Winsford, Frickley and Bamber Bridge — a sequence of victories that has left their manager Glyn Chamberlain singularly unimpressed. "I think 70 per cent of my squad are capable of playing at that level." Chamberlain, who traded his defensive league wares for Burnley, Chesterfield and Halifax Town, became manager three years ago and has knitted together the usual non-league jumble of former pros and gifted part-timers. As a member of the Burnley ground staff he saw the Lancashire club, still a force in the land, beaten by Wimbledon, then of the Southern League, and was with Ches-



Newcastle united... Town's manager Glyn Chamberlain: room to manoeuvre in the main stand on match day



The striker John Burdred enjoys Saturday's match against Darwen



Mark Tran in New York

Results

Table of football results including Soccer, American Football, Tennis, and Basketball.

Cricket

Table of cricket results including Championship Trophy and County matches.

Ice Hockey

Table of ice hockey results including NHL and AHL games.

Rugby Union

Table of rugby union results including international and domestic matches.

American Football

Table of American football results including NFL and CFL games.

Ice Hockey

Table of ice hockey results including NHL and AHL games.

صحة من الاعمال

Cricket
Tour match: South Australia v England A

Headley makes his own name

DEAN HEADLEY is desperate to play for England. After the success of his father and grandfather George for the West Indies he is anxious that "people won't remember me as the Headley who didn't play Test cricket". After his latest performance at the Adelaide Oval to remarkable acclaim, Mike Gatting is confident the 26-year-old will achieve his ambition next summer against the full Australian side. Headley bowled England A to a remarkable 10-wicket victory in the first of two matches, taking five for 38 in the second innings to complete career-best match figures of 11 for 98 as South Australia, chasing a target of 170, were beaten by 12 runs. Gatting said: "It was an exceptional performance by Dean, and good news for England. We need another strike bowler with the Aussies coming over next year. A few guys in the Test team had better not sit on their laurels." The Australians were also impressed. Joe Scuderi, who led their victory charge with an unbeaten half-century but eventually ran out of partners, added: "Headley was the best bowler in the game." Greg Blewett will be wary of Headley if they meet in England next summer after being dismissed by a magnificent delivery by the Kent player for the second time in the match by the third ball of the day. South Australia's captain-coach Jamie Siddons, a century-maker in the first innings, was then trapped lbw by a ball which ripped back sharply. And, when Adam Hollidge claimed a spectacular catch at second slip to dismiss the left-handed Ben Johnson, Headley had three for 13 and South Australia were 41 for four. James Brash having been run out by a direct hit from Michael Vaughan at cover trying to take a sharp single off his first ball. Siddons, a notoriously sparky character, was furious at his dismissal, standing his ground for several seconds before marching off to do considerable damage to the dressing-room. Siddons, while, received a warning from both umpires for suggesting to Hollidge that his catch had not carried. However, the fiercely competitive nature of the game in the middle was undermined by the absence from the South Australian side of Darren Lehmann, who had been called to Alice Springs by the Australian Cricket Board to play for the Northern Territory XI in today's tour game against the West Indians. That meant that after the wicketkeeper Tim Neilson had fallen, caught behind to Ashley Giles with the score on 51, England A were down to the last two batsmen capable of causing trouble, Scuderi and Brad Young. They duly did so in a sixth-wicket stand of 70. Giles then had Young caught at slip by Craig White but, with more stubborn support from Gillespie, Scuderi had taken the Redbacks to within 20 runs of their target with three wickets remaining when Headley struck again. He bowled Gillespie lbw next ball, giving himself a chance of his fourth hat-trick in 1996 following three this summer for Kent - a chance the locals rated as better than 50-50 against Harris, promoted to the dizzy heights of No. 10 by the absence of Lehmann. Instead Headley had to wait almost half an hour for his chance because of the tea interval, and by that time the batsmen had changed ends for Scuderi to deny him. However, England could not be denied and Giles bowled Harris round his legs to complete a second victory over the Sheffield Shield champions in six days and send the tourists to Mount Gambier for a four-day game against the Australian Academy in excellent spirits. ENGLAND A First Innings 98 (M A Scuderi 74, W K White 28, C Harris 4-21) SOUTH AUSTRALIA First Innings 278 (J Siddons 101, Headley 5-25) ENGLAND A Second Innings 151 (Michael Vaughan 50, Headley 5-12) SOUTH AUSTRALIA Second Innings 124 (M A Scuderi 46, B Young 30, C Harris 1-27, J Siddons 1-27, Headley 5-12) ENGLAND A won by 12 runs.



In with a shout... Hingis sounds off during the Australian Open. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS COLE

Tennis
Ominous for Seles as Hingis humbles her in runaway win

Stephen Bierley on the unexpected demise of a formidable champion and the imminent arrival of another

THE RISE and rise of Martina Hingis, still only 16 years old, coincided significantly with the decline of Monica Seles when the Swiss teenager beat the former world No. 1, 6-0 early yesterday. This stunning upset, which took only 52 minutes, came in the Bank of the West Classic final at Oakland, California. Hingis broke Seles's serve in every game except one and dropped her own serve once. She made only five unforced errors and hit 30 winners to Seles's 11. "She blew me away today," said Seles. "She had answers for every shot I had." It was the first time Seles lost a set to love since a 6-3, 6-0 defeat to Martina Navratilova at the 1990 Virginia Slims of Washington, and only the fourth "bagel" of her career. It was the second WTA tour title of the year for Hingis, who broke into the top 10 last month by reaching her first Grand Slam semi-final. That was in the US Open, where she eliminated Jana Novotna and the third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario before losing to Steffi Graf. Seles won the Australian Open this year, suffering a shoulder injury in the process, and it seems that the Yugoslav-born American will never again be the force she was before a deranged spectator in Hamburg stabbed her three years ago. On her return to competitive tennis last year the WTA chose to rank her as joint No. 1 with Graf, a position she retained until last week, but this hardly reflected their respective status and form. Graf has won three Grand Slam titles this year and comprehensively defeated Seles in the US Open final. Last week Seles, on losing her joint No. 1 status, said she was perfectly happy to be the joint No. 2 and had no real ambition to reach the top again. She will continue to make a huge amount of money and probably hold a place in the top five. Hingis, meanwhile, looks every bit the queen in waiting. She has matured remarkably this year, climbing to No. 6 in the world rankings. Her rise has delighted everybody - or rather almost everybody. At the end of last month her doubles partner Helena Sukova, with whom she won the Wimbledon title in July, announced she was annulling the partnership, partly citing Hingis's on-court behaviour - or lack of it. Certainly Hingis is no saint on court, occasionally throwing both tantrums and racket, but her ability far outweighs such, as yet, minor blemishes. Sukova, once a teenage prodigy herself, makes most of her money from doubles and clearly Hingis's singles success has caused her to limit her energies. Sukova's real bone of contention was that Hingis pulled out of a doubles tournament. Hingis's victory in Oakland followed her first WTA tour win in Filderstadt, Germany, last month when she won a Porsche. "I'll be in the passenger seat for the next two years," Hingis said. This may be true of the car but not the tennis. The driving seat awaits her and by this time next year Graf may have only one hand on the wheel.



Price of fame... Seles feels the strain. DARRIN BRABROOK

Lloyd joins call for Test 'table'

CLIVE LLOYD, manager of the West Indies team currently touring Australia, has joined those who believe that a World Championship Test cricket is fundamental to the credibility of the five-day game. Although a limited-overs World Cup has been competed for every four years since 1975, Sri Lanka being the current holders, there has been no official means of deciding which Test side is top dog at present. Australia, for example, beat West Indies last time they met and assumed an unofficial title. But England drew with West Indies in 1988 and then last summer, beat India, who defeated Australia in a one-off Test in October. And where does this leave Pakistan and South Africa, both of whom have had series wins over England in the past year? The Australian Cricket Board is marketing the five-match series with Courtney Walsh's side as The Decisive unofficial world championship. But asks Lloyd, why unofficial when the Tests themselves are not? "Something should be set up where you play for the Test championship of the world," he says. "Test cricket is the thing. It is what you are known for. Nobody is known for doing anything in the one-day scene. At the moment three teams think they are world champions and I find that stupid." Lloyd envisages an officially sanctioned system whereby all nine Test-playing nations face each other within a given time. The idea is not new but, while many

Morrison's final over forces tie

DANNY MORRISON bowled a spectacular over to help New Zealand tie their match against Sri Lanka in the Singer Champions Trophy tournament in Sharjah yesterday. It was the 46th, with Sri Lanka needing one run to win with two wickets in hand. Morrison bowled Sa-

Motor Racing
Sauber jump the flag on Ferrari engine deal

deal had been discussed with the Italian firm a Ferrari spokesman was denied the strong tourists yesterday afternoon the team owner Peter Sauber confirmed to the Swiss press that a deal had been concluded. "I am very happy with this solution," he said. "It solves our engine concerns and will enable us to work more independently in the future." However, this was followed by a trenchant statement from the Ferrari spokesman Antonio Ghini: "We have been discussing a possible collaboration with Sauber in a deep way but the contract is not written and this [Sauber] press release could compromise any further development of the possible deal. "It is true that Ferrari is evaluating the possibility of selling its technology and know-how to other people. But it doesn't mean we will sell engines." Any Ferrari deal, coming only days after committing around £30 million for a two-year extension of Michael Schumacher's present contract - until the end of 1999 - would represent a step towards reconfiguring the world. If finalised, a two-year deal would be expected to cost Sauber around £10 million per season. It would also ensure the Swiss team's No. 1 driver Johnny Herbert had a chance of restoring his diminishing reputation after what was a disappointing first season with the team and the Ford V16. Sauber would anticipate covering their costs through their major sponsor Petronas, the Malaysian fuel conglomerate, whose name would be displayed on the can covers of the engines. The V16s would initially be prepared in Italy and to the specifications that Schumacher used in finishing second in the Japanese Grand Prix last month - Ferrari plans a revised version for their drivers - while Sauber plan to establish a service department at their base near Zurich.

Rugby Union
Club move helps heal divisions

ENGLAND'S leading clubs held out an olive-branch to Twickenham last night when they promised to release players from Leagues One and Two for divisional matches against touring teams during the next month. The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs organisation, which has been in dispute with the Rugby Football Union for a year, had threatened last month to prevent players from representing their divisions against the touring teams of Queensland, Argentina and South Africa. But the EPRUC chairman Donald Kerr said yesterday: "We have modified an agreement which we are negotiating with the RFU. Part of our proposals includes allowing our players to appear in these games." The move is a promising step towards solving the dispute between the clubs and Twickenham, although the core issues of television money and control remain. It had been feared that a range of matches for the Midlands, North, London and South-West would have to include players from lower divisions. Fran Cotton, the Lions manager and a staunch supporter of the divisional set-up, welcomed EPRUC's change of heart. "The RFU will be relieved that the quality of teams against the strong tourists will be the best available. It would have been embarrassing to ask tourists to travel thousands of miles to play against League Three opposition," he said. Meanwhile the Irish Rugby Football Union has unveiled plans to halt the drain of players to England by spending up to £3 million on contracts for leading players. The proposals, involving a three-tier structure designed to encourage the Irish players now with English clubs to return home, will be put to Ireland's leading clubs next Sunday. "Our aim is to make it less attractive to play abroad," said the IRFU president Bobby Deacy. "And we are determined to put a structure in place which will entice our top players back to Ireland and which will discourage others from leaving." The overall aim is to restructure the game to embrace three main categories, the clubs, the provinces and the national sides. Treorchy's coaching pair Clive and Chris Jones have resigned. Treorchy, who have won only one First Division game in eight and suffered four consecutive defeats in the European Conference, have appointed the former Neath coach Lynn Jones as their new supreme.

Rugby League
Wigan win race to sign Murray

WIGAN have resisted competition from a number of clubs, notably Salford Reds, to sign the 21-year-old Auckland Warriors full-back David Murray. Murray, who has joined Wigan in a 12-month deal with a further two-year option, will link up with the club later this month and is expected to play in the Boxing Day challenge match against St Helens at Central Park. He comes with some ringing endorsements about his ability. Denis Betts, the Warriors' chairman and former Wigan forward, describes Murray as "an exceptional talent". "The only reason he is leaving Auckland is because the Warriors have signed the New Zealand captain Matthew Ridge, who is undoubtedly the best full-back in the world today," he said. According to Joe Lydon, Wigan's football manager, Murray is "one of the best prospects I have seen in a long time. He is already a class act and I am sure he is going to be a terrific asset to the club". The Lions, on their recent tour of New Zealand, would testify to Murray's pace, attacking ability and goalkicking prowess. He scored two tries for the Maoris in a 40-38 win over the tourists and landed two goals in the 30-22

victory for the President's XIII at Wellington. Murray will join his Warriors colleague Stuart Lester at Central Park. The warily-built 21-year-old Kiwi second-row forward rejected a new offer from Auckland to join Wigan and he, too, is expected to play against St Helens at Christmas. Leeds, already in competition with St Helens and several Australian clubs for the Kiwi Test player Richie Blackmore, have joined Saints in the pursuit of Iestyn Harris, Warrington's Wales and Great Britain back, who is listed at £1.25 million. Warrington's chairman Peter Higham said Leeds had been given permission to speak to him. The Australian Rugby League, which recently lost its court battle against Super League, has now lost its chief executive John Quysle as well. He has resigned after 13 years as the second most powerful man in the Australian game to its executive chairman Ken Arthurson. Adelaide Rams, meanwhile, have appointed the first woman chief executive in the history of the sport. The 37-year-old New Zealander Liz Dawson joins them from Auckland Warriors. The Oldham Bears winger Adrian Belle has signed a two-year contract with Huddersfield Giants. The fee of around £25,000 has still to be agreed by the clubs.

Ice Hockey
Sunday's foes unite for GB in Olympic bid

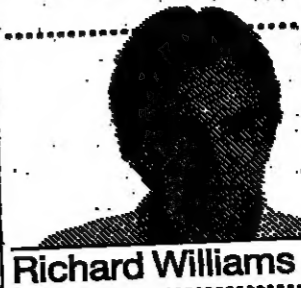
PETER WOODS, Great Britain's Canadian coach, put his finger on the spot: "I would love a situation where we could close down the fixtures for the weekend, even just the Sunday evening before such a vital game." Tonight Britain play an Olympic Group A qualifying game against Slovenia at Sheffield. Unbeaten in their five tournament games so far they defeated Slovenia 5-1 in Ljubljana last January. A repeat of that success, and victories over the Netherlands (away) and Switzerland (at Sheffield) next month, will ensure progression to a seven-nation final qualification tournament in Austria and Germany next February from which the top five will go to the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. The coach's plea was all the more understandable after Sunday night's stormy Superleague encounter at Sheffield against the Steelers and Woods' own club, the Basingstoke Bison. Steelers won 7-1 after three players from each side had been ejected for fighting, including both netminders who fought at centre ice, although Sheffield's Tom Plommer was the only one of eight GB squad members to be dismissed. As the national squad assembled at Sheffield yesterday, Woods said: "Sheffield and Basingstoke tried to knock the crap out of each other. Then next day we're in the same dressing room. "I don't anticipate problems, though there is to be a cooling-off period and there'll be some minor tension. That has to be dealt with right away, we have to make sure everyone is focused on the task in hand. Slovenia are skilled and physical and for a lot of our players this'll be the third game in four nights." Woods envied his soccer counterpart Glenn Hoddle, who had the England squad together for a week before last Saturday's World Cup game in Georgia. Ice hockey might consider doing the same, he said. "In a perfect world that's what it would be all about and I don't think that's unrealistic to ask. But if you look at our programme now compared to a couple of years ago, we're progressing."

SportsGuardian



Celebration time... Warren Hegg catches South Australia's Tim Neilsen at the wicket off the bowling of Ashley Giles during England A's stirring 12-run victory in Adelaide yesterday. Dean Headley took five wickets to help turn the game. Andy Wilson reports, page 15

Where Tyson scored on a featherweight



Richard Williams

IT WAS a good weekend for boxing. Nobody died. Everywhere you looked there were winners. By the end of the longest Saturday night Las Vegas had witnessed an upset big enough to prove on its own that the whole business is not, after all, worked out in advance according to the sums scribbled on the back of an envelope in Don King's coat room, in other words. Not, at least, once the guys are in the ring. How they get there is another matter. Perhaps the best thing about Evander Holyfield's smashing win over Mike Tyson was the fact that it appeared to upset King's carefully laid plans. The worst thing was the sound of King reassuring reporters straight afterwards that, yes indeed, Holyfield's immediate future was in his hands. "It's the American way," King crowed into the nearest available microphone while simultaneously figuring out the value of a Holyfield-Tyson rematch.

There is nothing exclusive about finding the combination of Hamed's unstoppable self-aggrandisement and calculated belittling of opponents tends to obliterate a proper admiration of his technique. When I heard him predict that he would stop Hamed after two minutes of his second round, I found myself asking why it is that a boxer which seemed inspiring and brash when issued by Mike Tyson, now seems so pathetic and brutish when it comes from Hamed. Why could Ali not have beaten an opponent without losing our affection, but not the "Nazi"?

Tyson defeat 'finishes' King

Kevin Mitchell hears Lennox Lewis's negotiator map out the way forward

THE queue to Evander Holyfield's door is a predictably long and hungry one after the crazy scenes in Las Vegas on Saturday night but Faneos Eliades, the financial negotiator of the Lennox Lewis camp, believes he is closer than Don

King to the new champion's doorbell. Yesterday he challenged King's claim to have a promotional option on a rematch between Holyfield and Mike Tyson. "King has no hold over Holyfield whatsoever," Eliades said. "Evander is not a King fighter. He is connected to Main Events, as is Lennox. We are very confident that when Evander fights again — and he has gone away to take a break — that he will fight Lennox. "There is some doubt, also, about the legality of King's supposed option on a rematch. Normally options on title fights are illegal — although this is boxing we're talking about." King maintained yesterday: "I do have the promotional rights to Evander. It's the American way. We're going to see if we can put together the greatest rematch in the history of boxing." Faneos would certainly pay more to see a vulnerable Tyson try to regain his World Boxing Association title from the similarly suspect Holyfield than they would for a fight between Holyfield and the occasional Londoner Lewis. Whatever his merits as a fighter, and they are

maxy, Lewis does not have Tyson's box-office or pay-per-view clout in America. King and Eliades will have a chance to exchange views on Thursday when the next episode is played out in a New Jersey court. King and Jose Sulaiman, the World Boxing Council president, have been subpoenaed to explain to the court why, having won the fight, they would for the purse bidding for Lewis's next fight (a 12-rounder for the WBC's vacant championship against Oliver McCall, a King fighter) King failed to produce the bout within the mandated time. It is a familiar King tactic. Eliades is not having it. Although a virtual novice in the fight game, he has shown plenty of spirit in his confrontations with King. "I think King is finished," says Eliades. "He is being frozen out of the picture." But those who have written his obituary in the past have always had to do a rewrite and Eliades surely knows King is far from finished. For a start, he has two of the other so-called world champions: Michael Moore, who holds the International Boxing Federation version, and

Henry Akinwande, the World Boxing Organisation titleholder. But Moore is unhappy at losing the \$10 million he would have been paid to fight Tyson in March. Akinwande could inadvertently freeze Tyson out of the picture as he is rated No. 8 by the WBC and mandatory challenger for the winner of the Lewis-McCall fight. It would take some shrewd re-negotiating by the WBC to put Tyson ahead of McCall. The only people unhappier than King today are the Las Vegas bookmakers, who lost a small fortune on long-shot bets for Holyfield. Their over-generous starting price of 25-1 after a late rush of tourist bets in the big hotels. "It was the worst loss on a fight we've ever had," said a spokesman for the Las Vegas Hilton. The Mirage paid out more than \$1 million and Binion's Horseshoe casino reported "an absolute disaster — all the money went on Holyfield." The MGM Grand, which staged the fight, did not fare so badly but it is unlikely that any underdog will attract such attractive odds again.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,808
Set by Orlando

"The character I played in Wish You Were Here was incredibly spirited and I suppose it's a compliment to me that people assume I'm going to walk into a restaurant and stand on the table. But the wild child image was a complete load of bollocks."
Emily Lloyd
G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,808
Set by Orlando

Across

- Flight from the Midwest to a Southern African province (6)
- Cue found in gym after concert (6)
- Celebrate twentieth pardon freely (5,3,4,3)
- An American writer has to manage that over there (6)
- Polar explorer is going round back of sledge dogs (8)
- Sire with many a form in school for fathers? (8)
- A sweet's round layers (6)
- Charles the Heartless is abstaining from unlawful sex (6)
- Hated action, engrossing trial (8)
- American coins found in stations (8)
- A meal for dad among others (6)

Down

- Upset about a certain deletion (7)
- Sweet child's first accompanied by youth leader (5)
- Half of Peru and Tunisia is lacking a flower (7)
- Going over to American city that's orgiastic (7)
- Mars meant mobilisation for soldiers (8-2-4)
- Old city has time for top quality (3,4)
- A woolly sort of cow (6)
- Rising in society and requiring immediate attention (9)
- Carter's work — a huge construction outside Los Angeles (7)
- Tracile pie for Agamemnon's daughter (7)
- He invested in a Norfolk town's crockery (8)
- Fronts of trains entering really small stations? (7)
- Poles in trouble with character from Greece (7)
- Parking on line for a bit of fun (6)

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